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Chae et al.

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(54) **GATE ELECTRODE AND GATE CONTACT
PLUG LAYOUTS FOR INTEGRATED
CIRCUIT FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTORS**

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H01L 29/423 (2006.01)

H01L 29/78 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H01L 27/088** (2013.01); **H01L 29/4238** (2013.01); **H01L 29/7833** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H01L 29/4238; H01L 27/0207; H01L 27/088; H01L 29/66484

USPC 257/368, 401, E29.026; 438/279, 294
See application file for complete search history.

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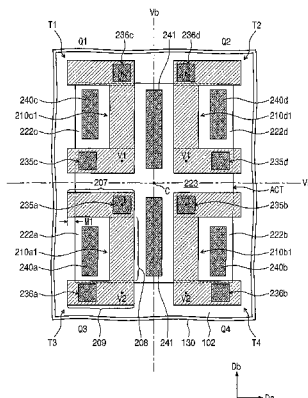
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A four transistor layout can include an isolation region that defines an active region, the active region extending along first and second different directions. A common source region of the four transistors extends from a center of the active region along both the first and second directions to define four quadrants of the active region that are outside the common source region. Four drain regions are provided, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants and spaced apart from the common source region. Finally, four gate electrodes are provided, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants between the common source region and a respective one of the four drain regions. A respective gate electrode includes a vertex and first and second extending portions, the first extending portions extending from the vertex along the first direction and the second extending portions extending from the vertex along the second direction.

11 Claims, 22 Drawing Sheets



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Fig. 1A

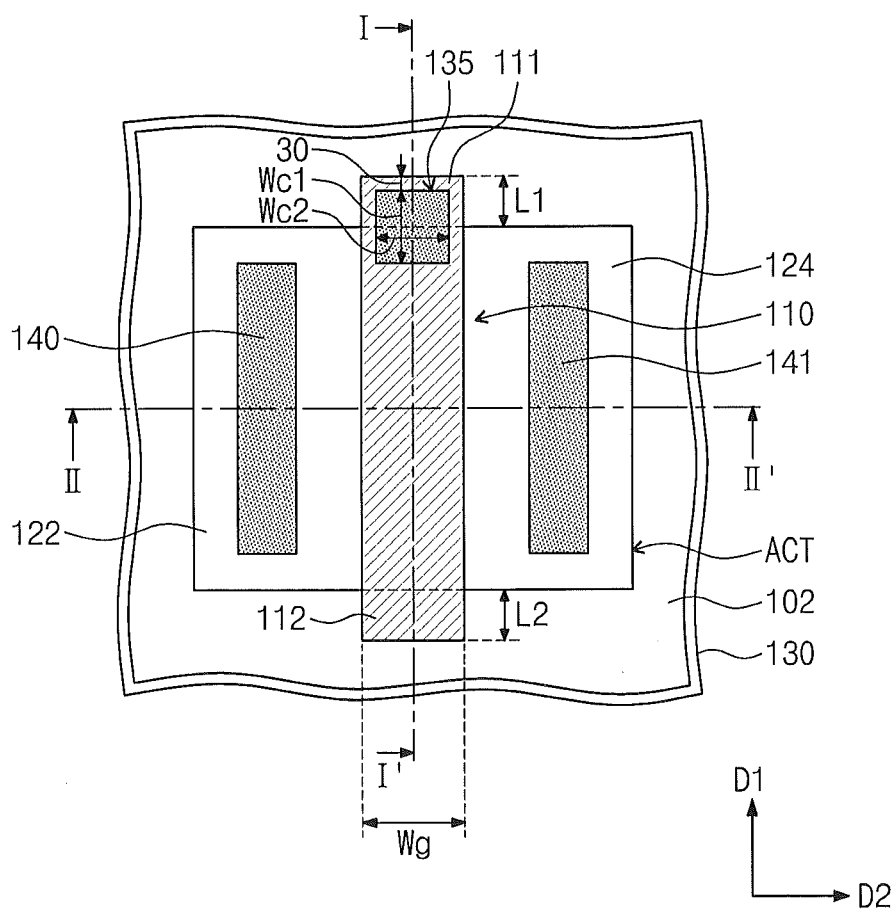


Fig. 1B

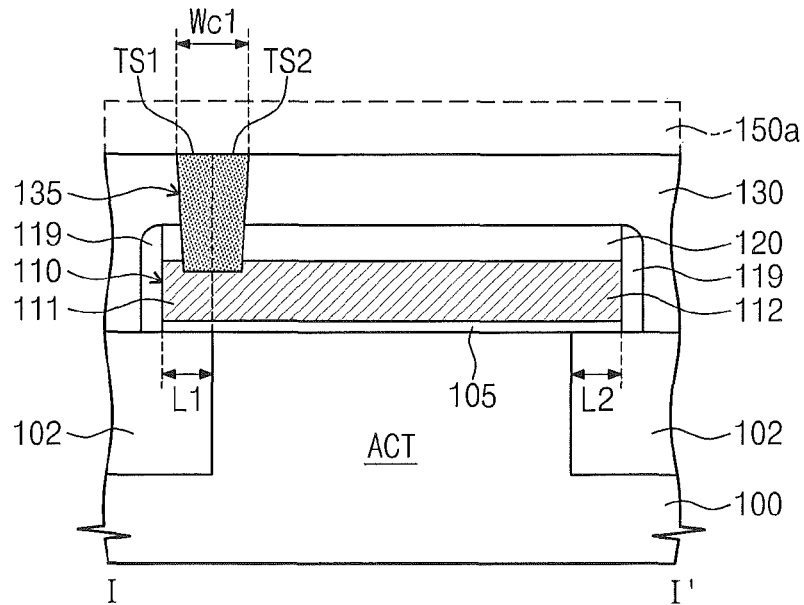


Fig. 1C

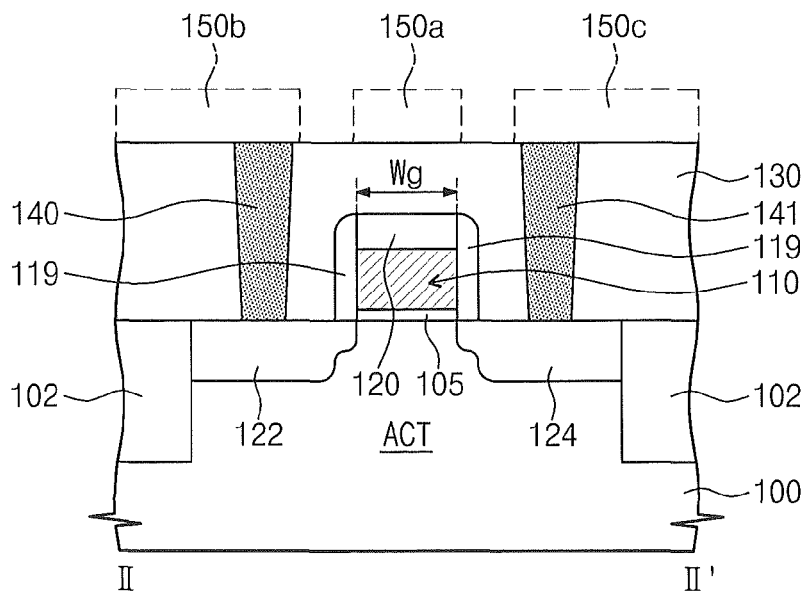


Fig. 2A

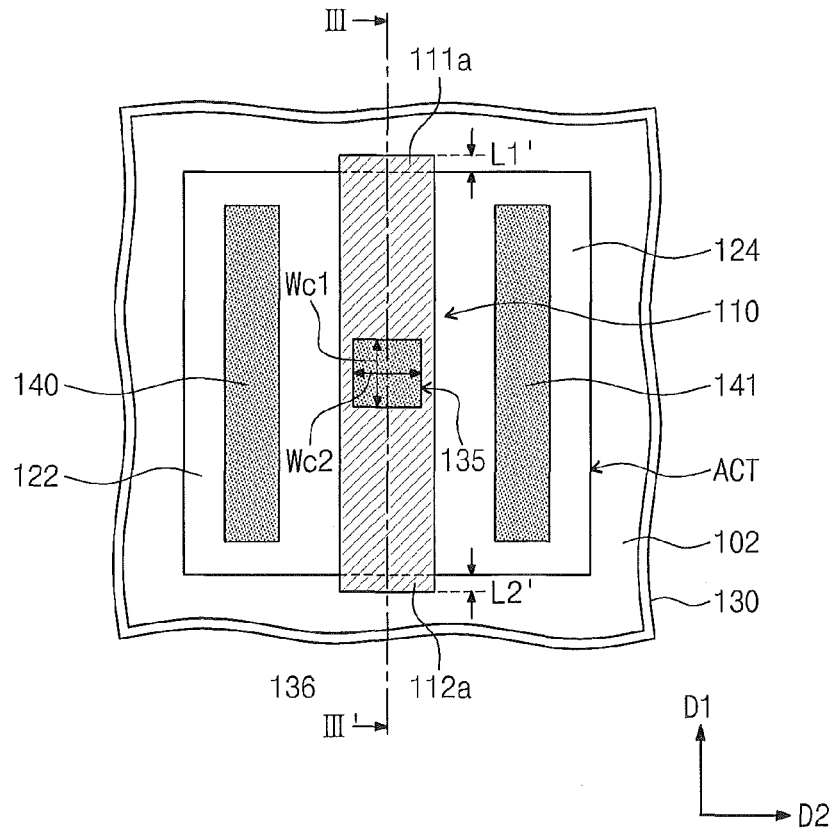
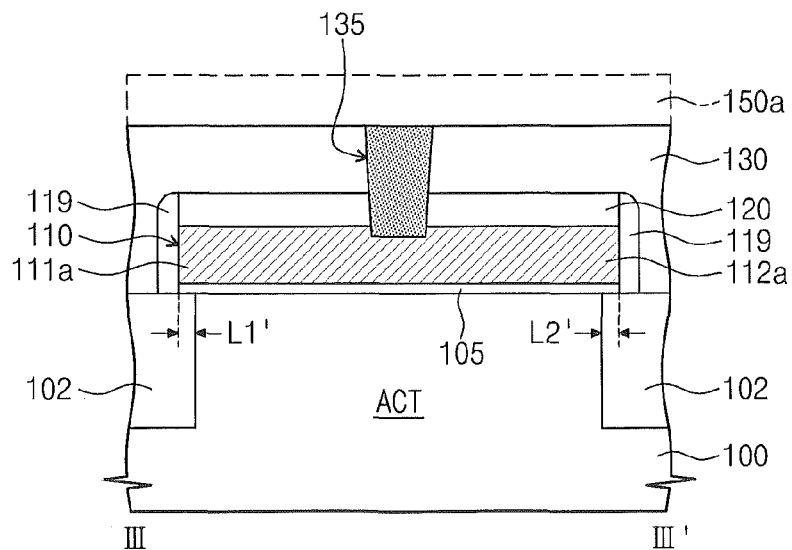


Fig. 2B



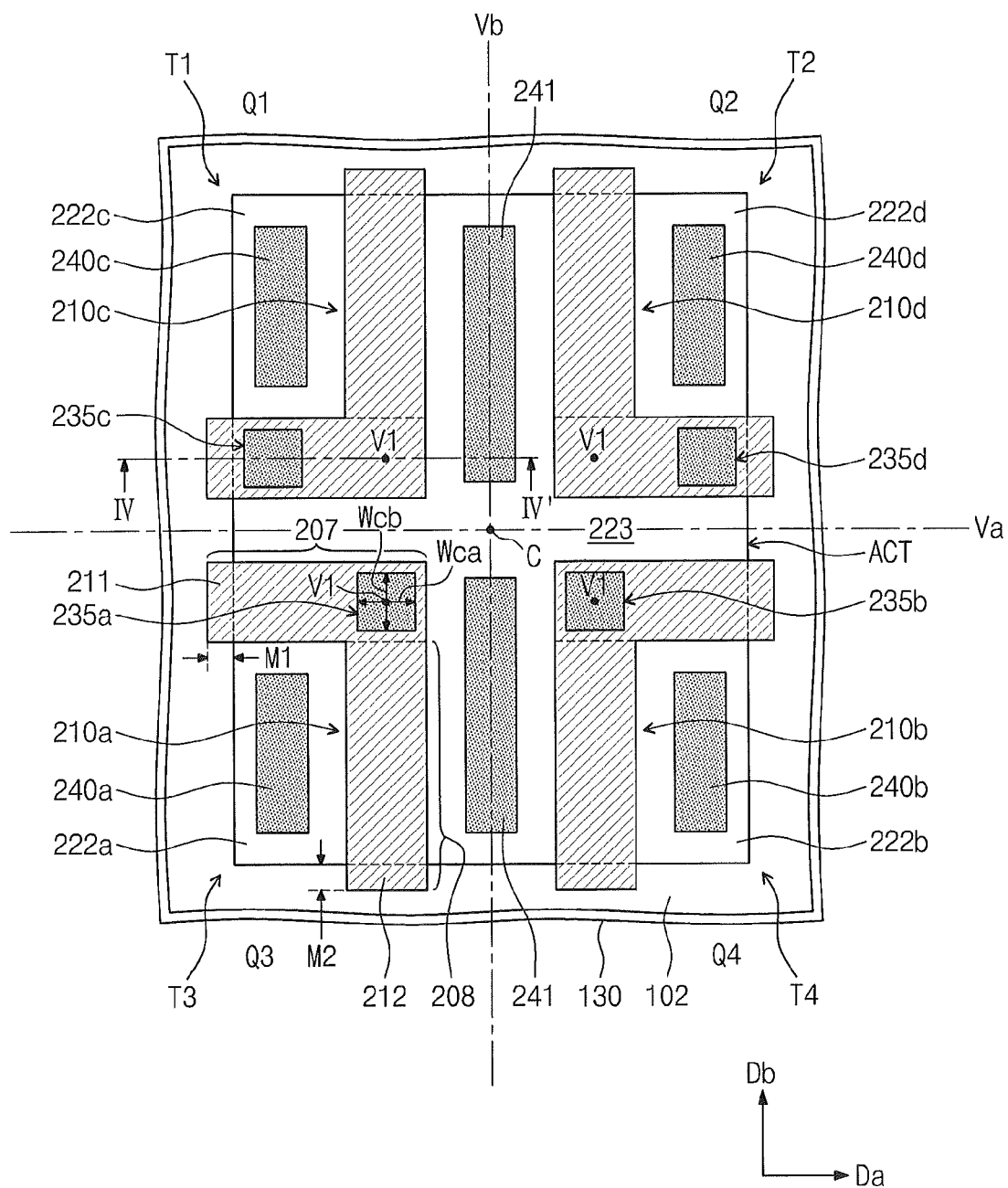


Fig. 5B

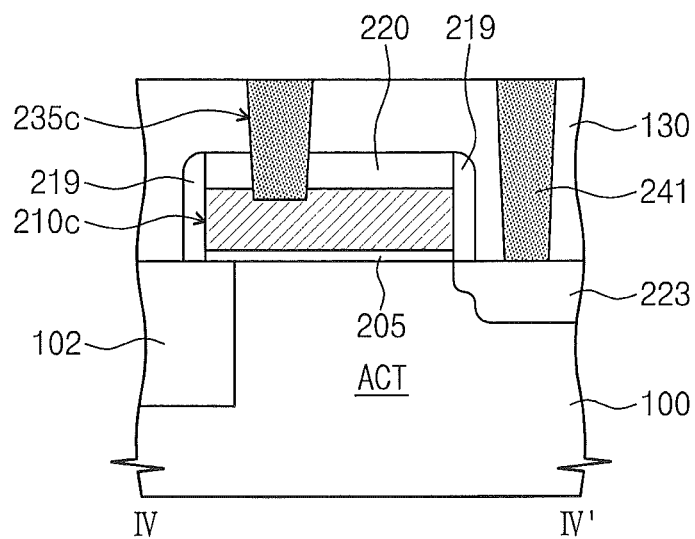


Fig. 6A

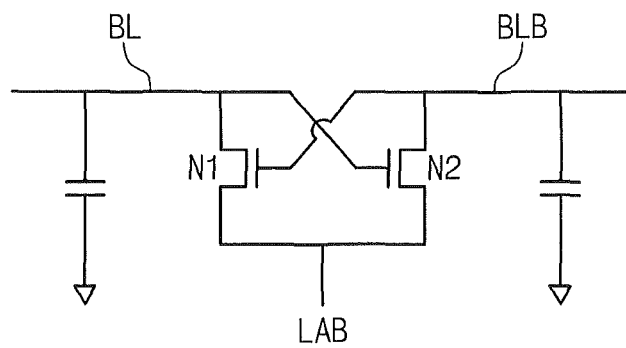


Fig. 6B

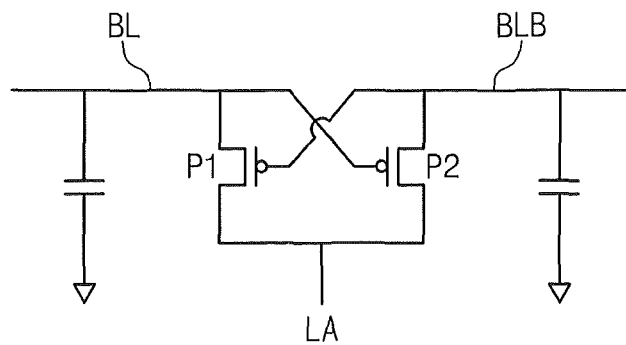


Fig. 7A

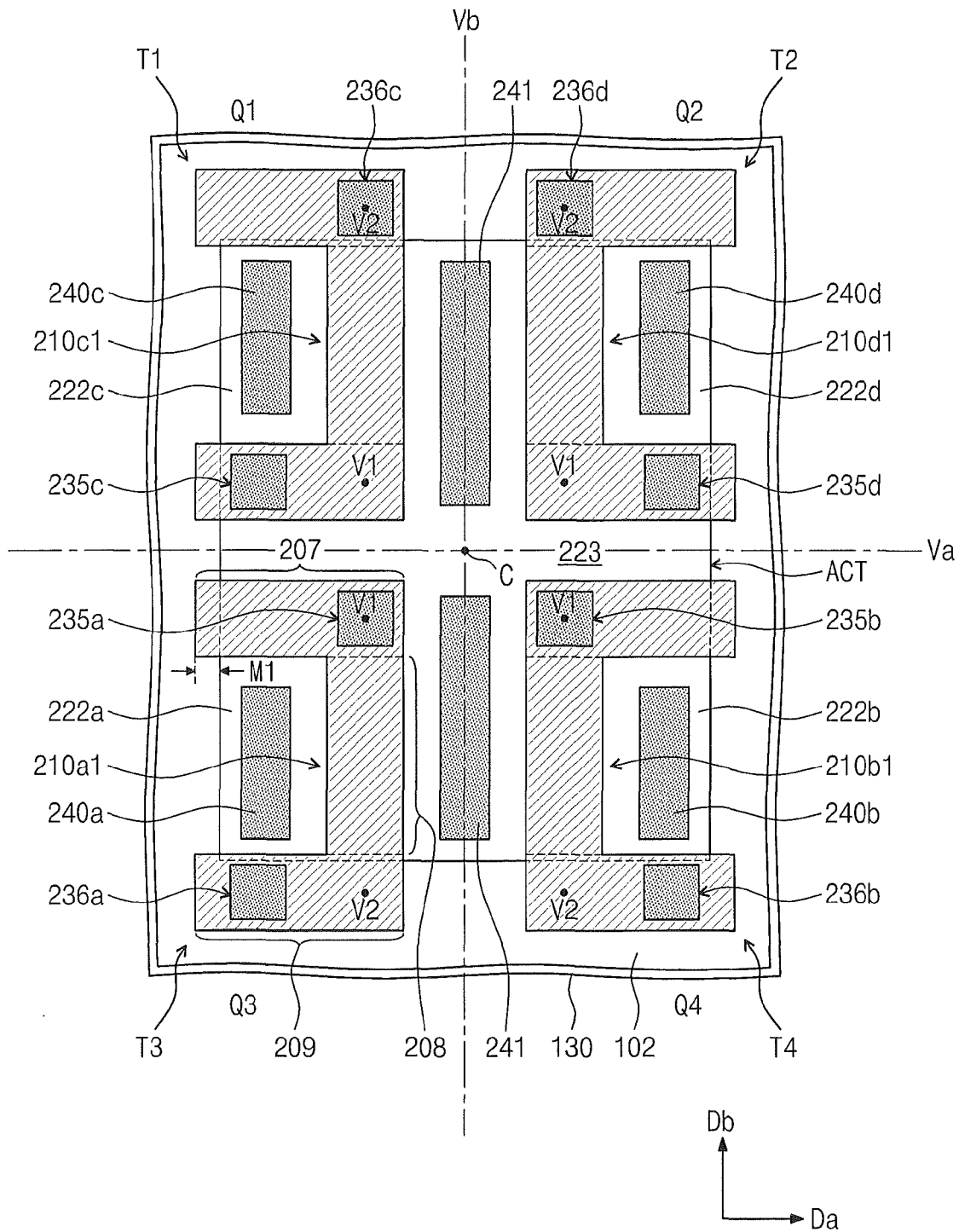


Fig. 7B

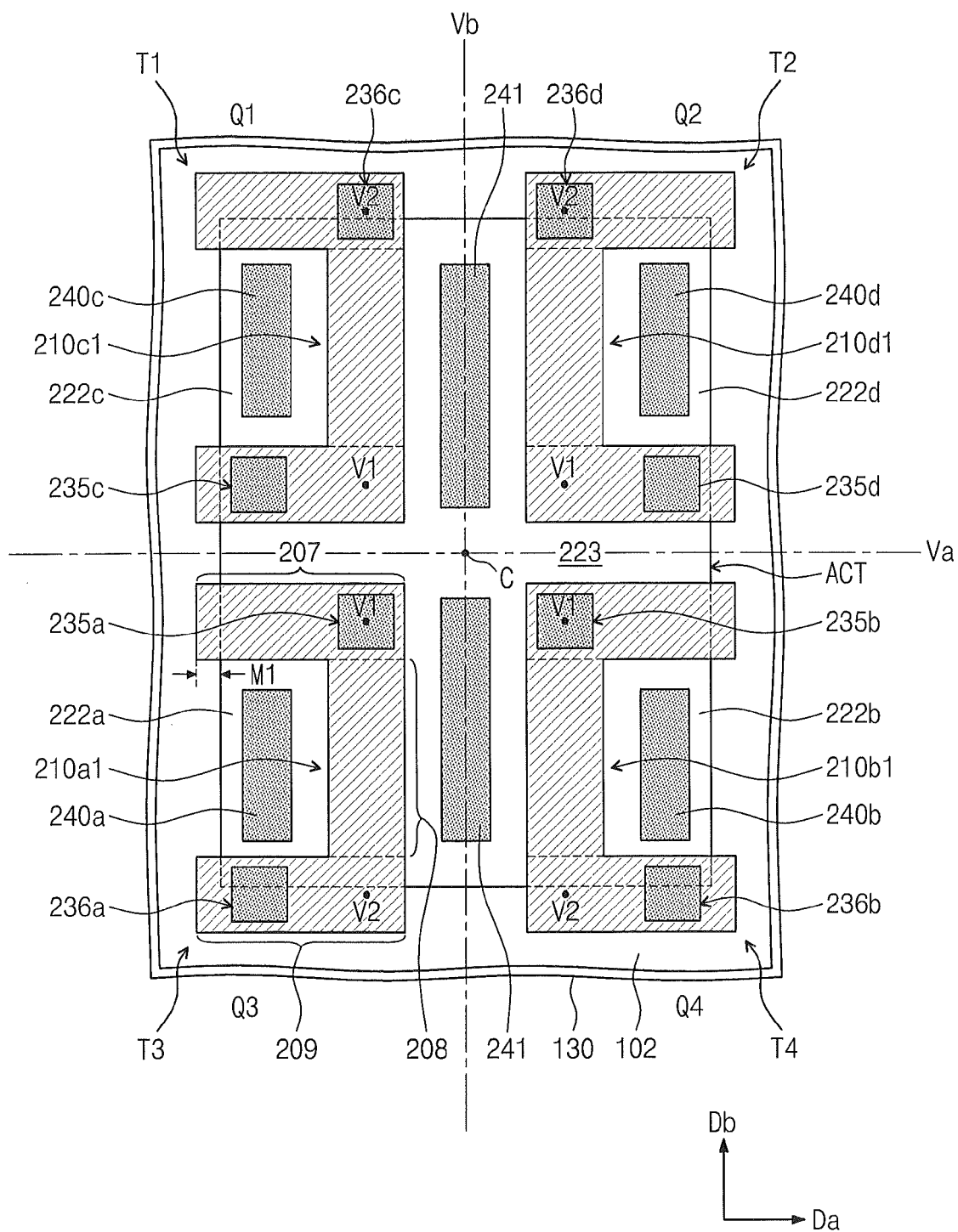


Fig. 7C

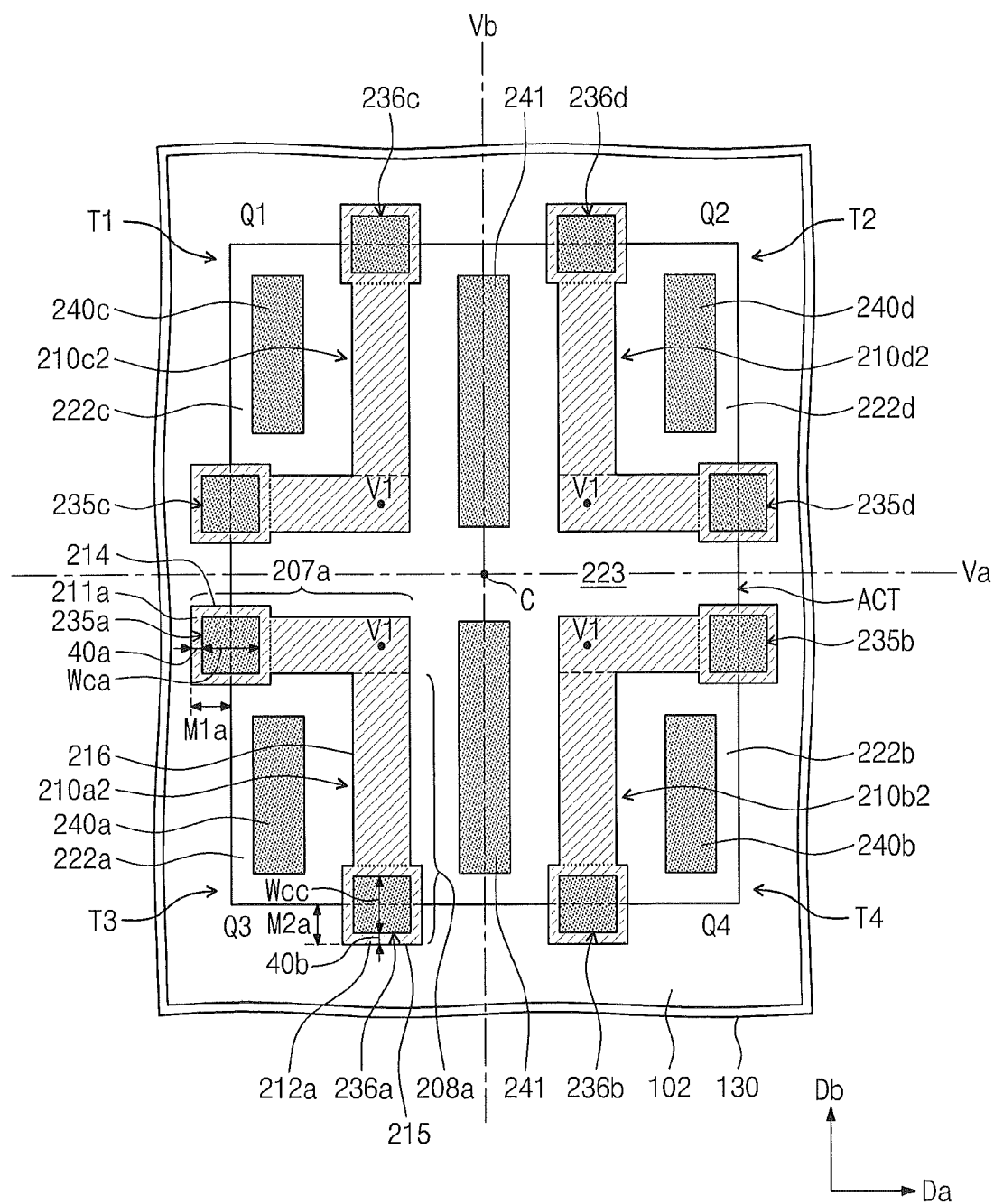


Fig. 7D

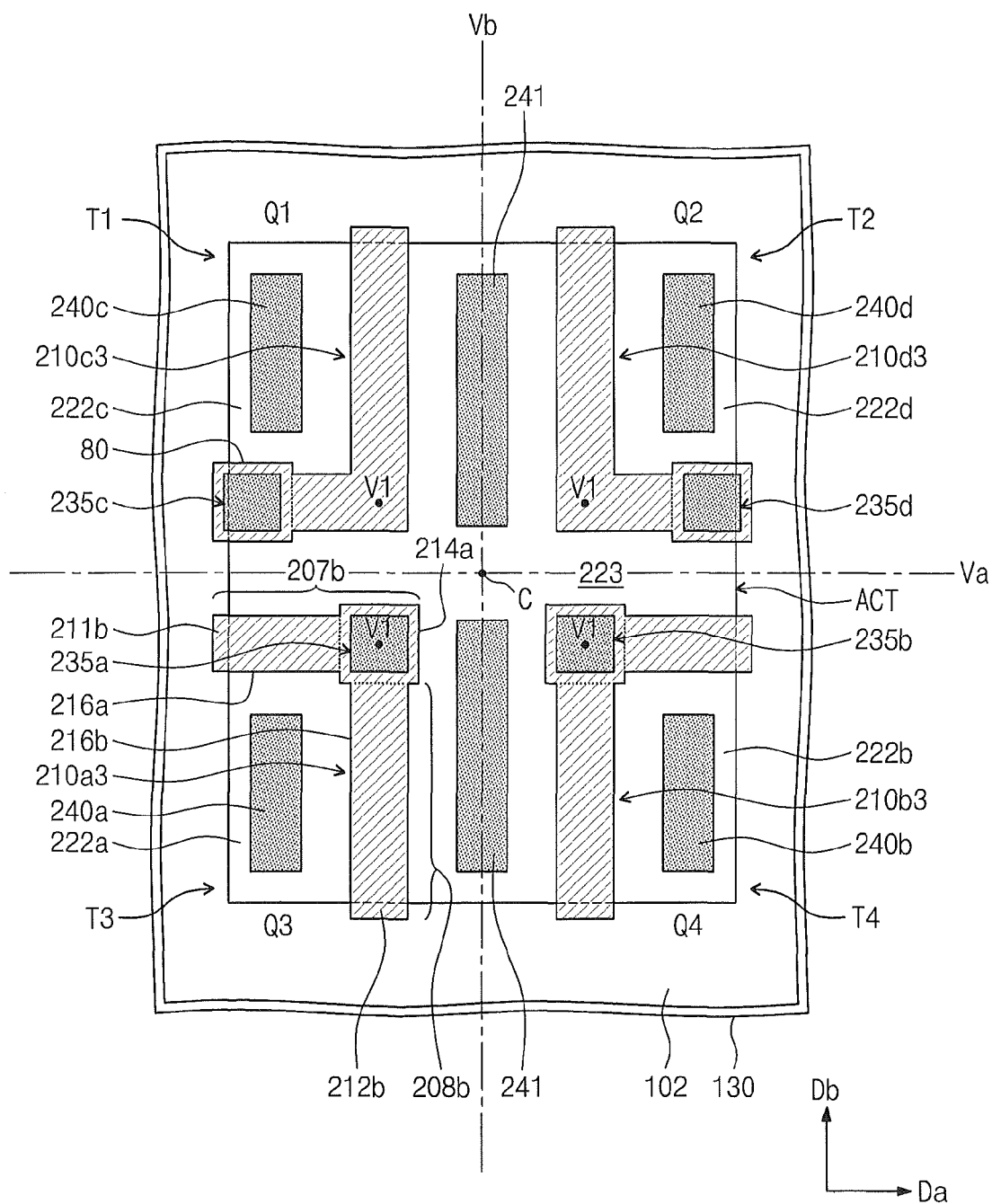


Fig. 7E

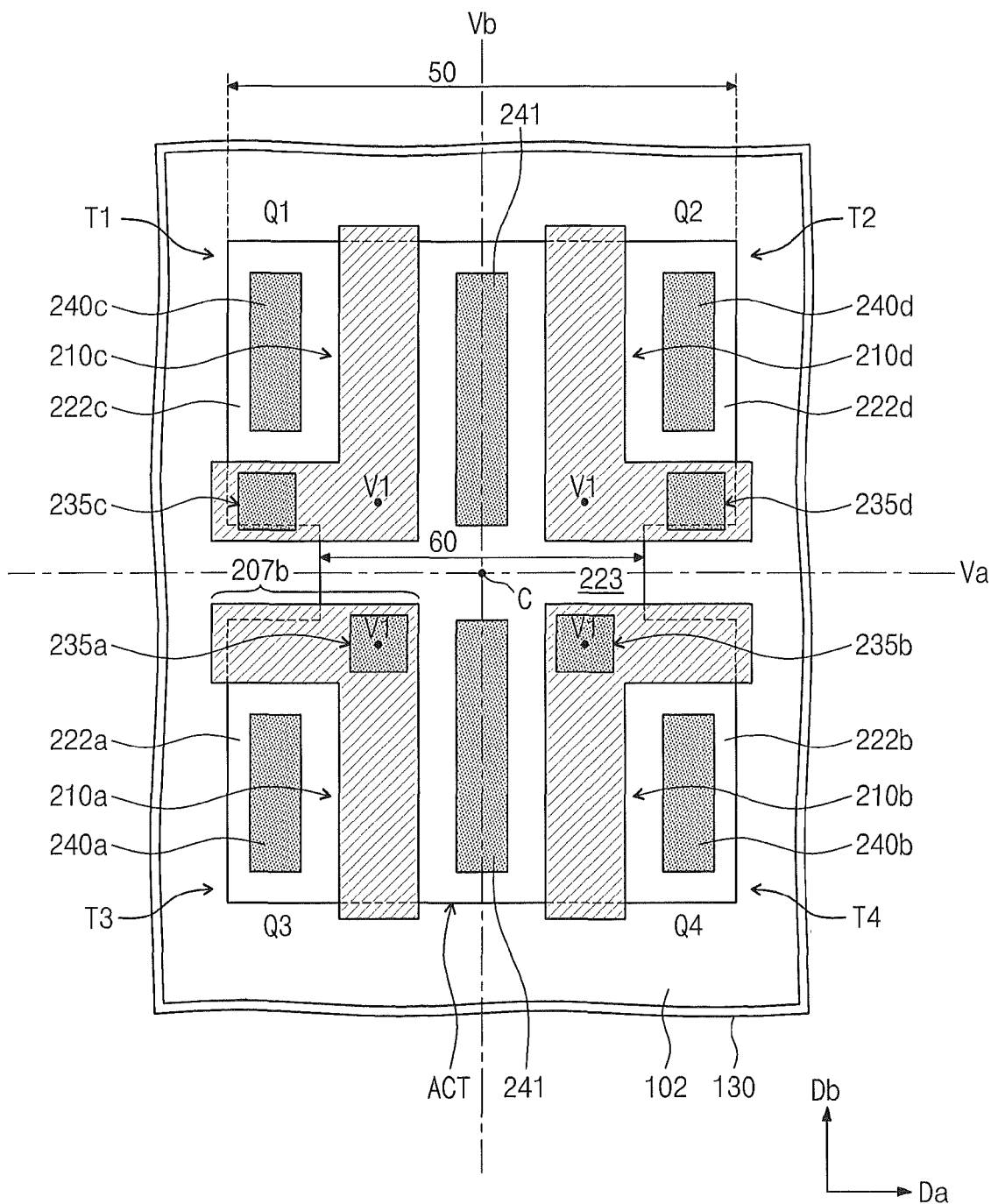


Fig. 8A

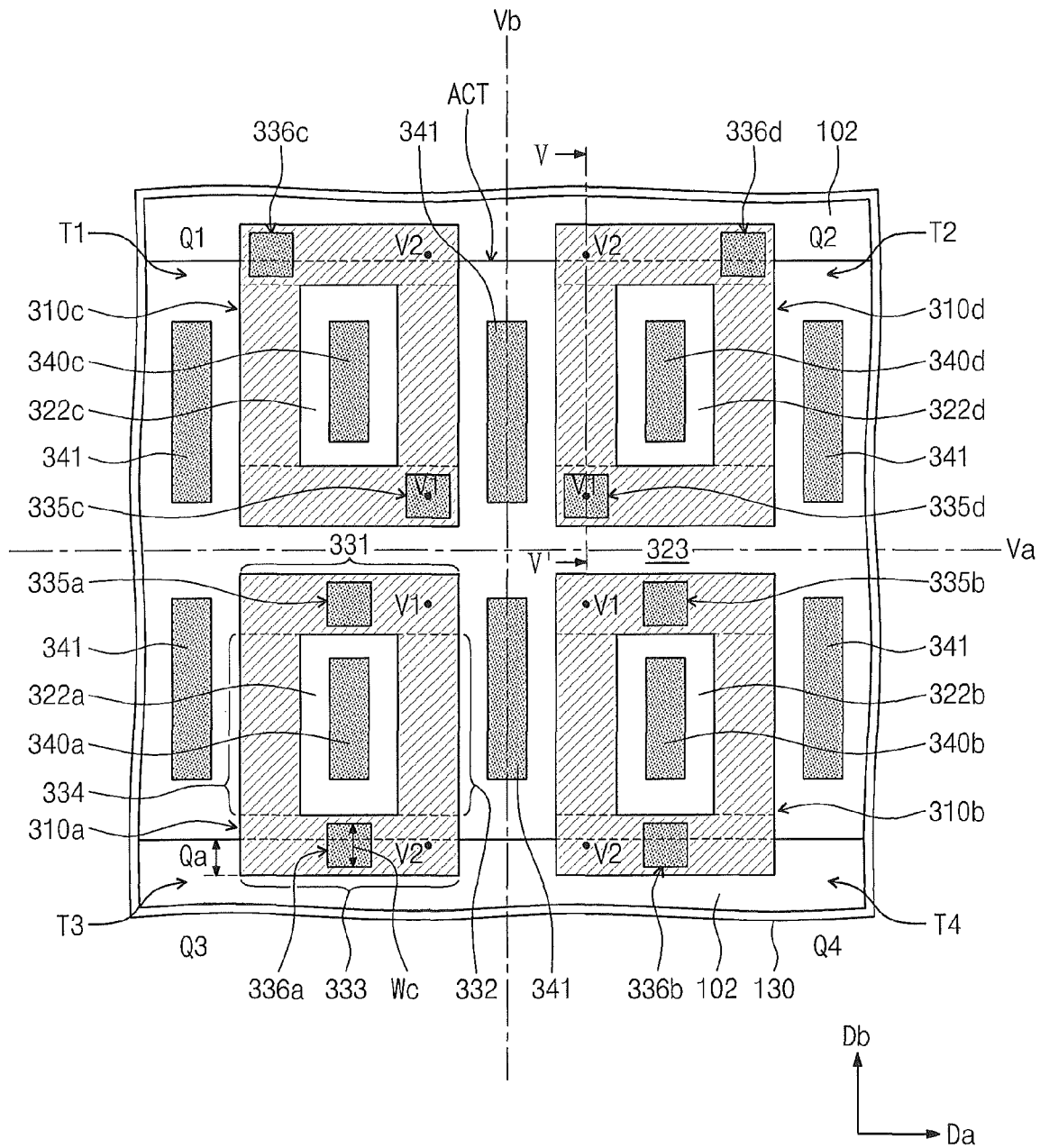


Fig. 8B

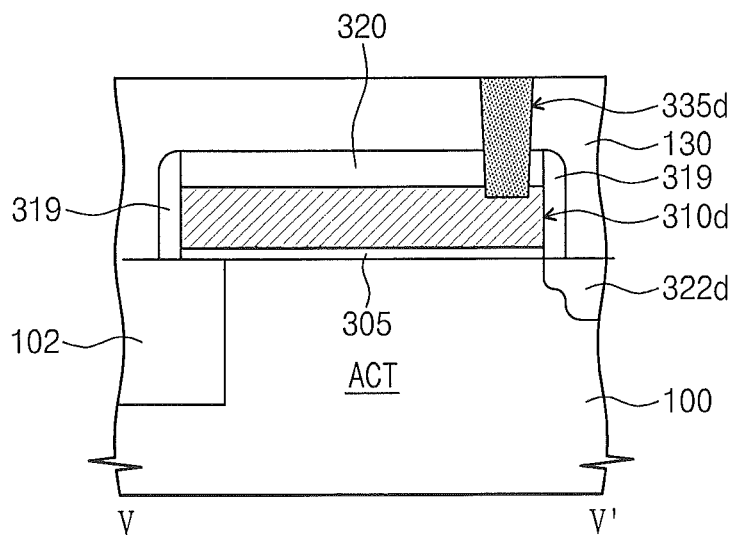


Fig. 9A

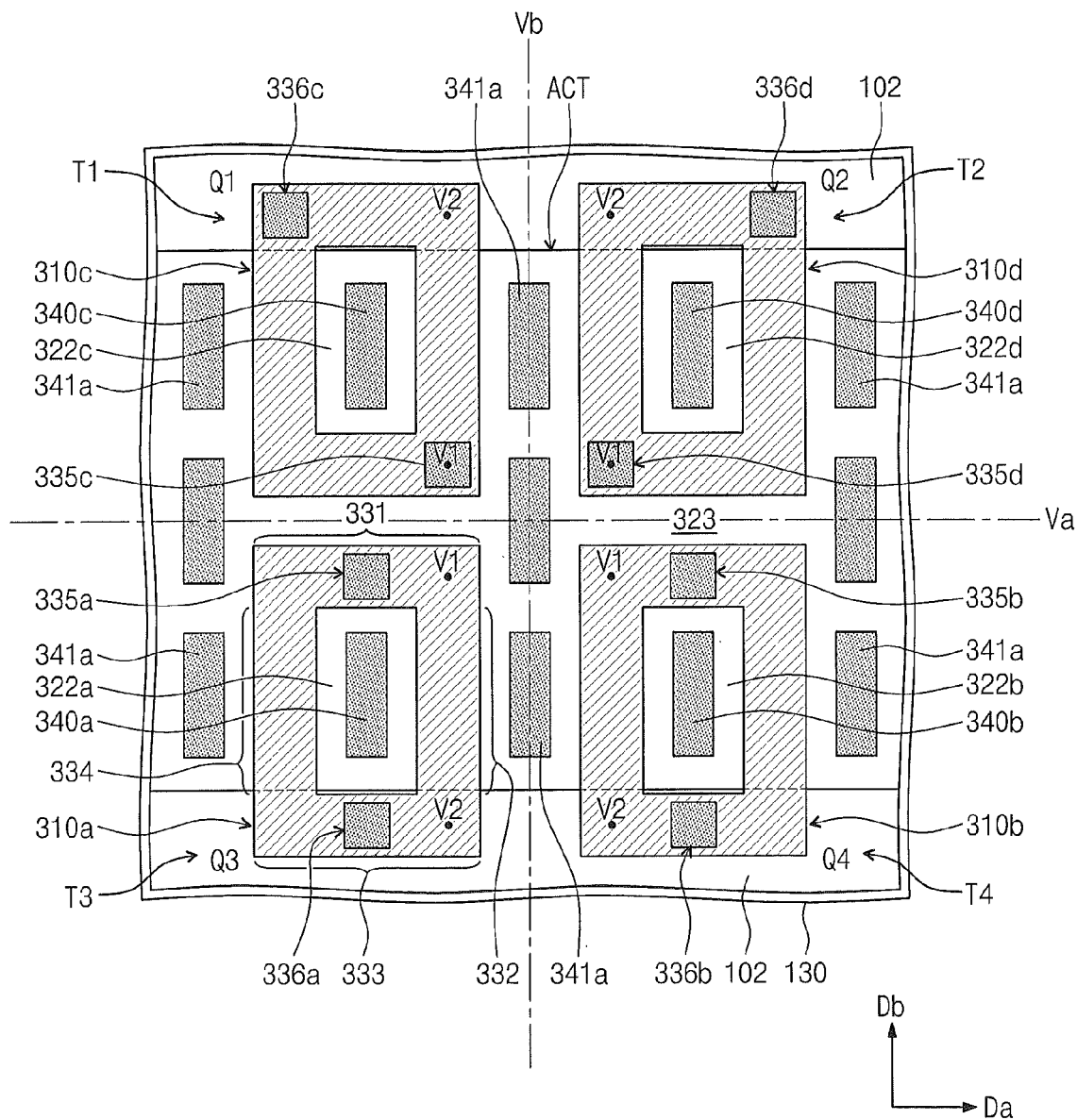
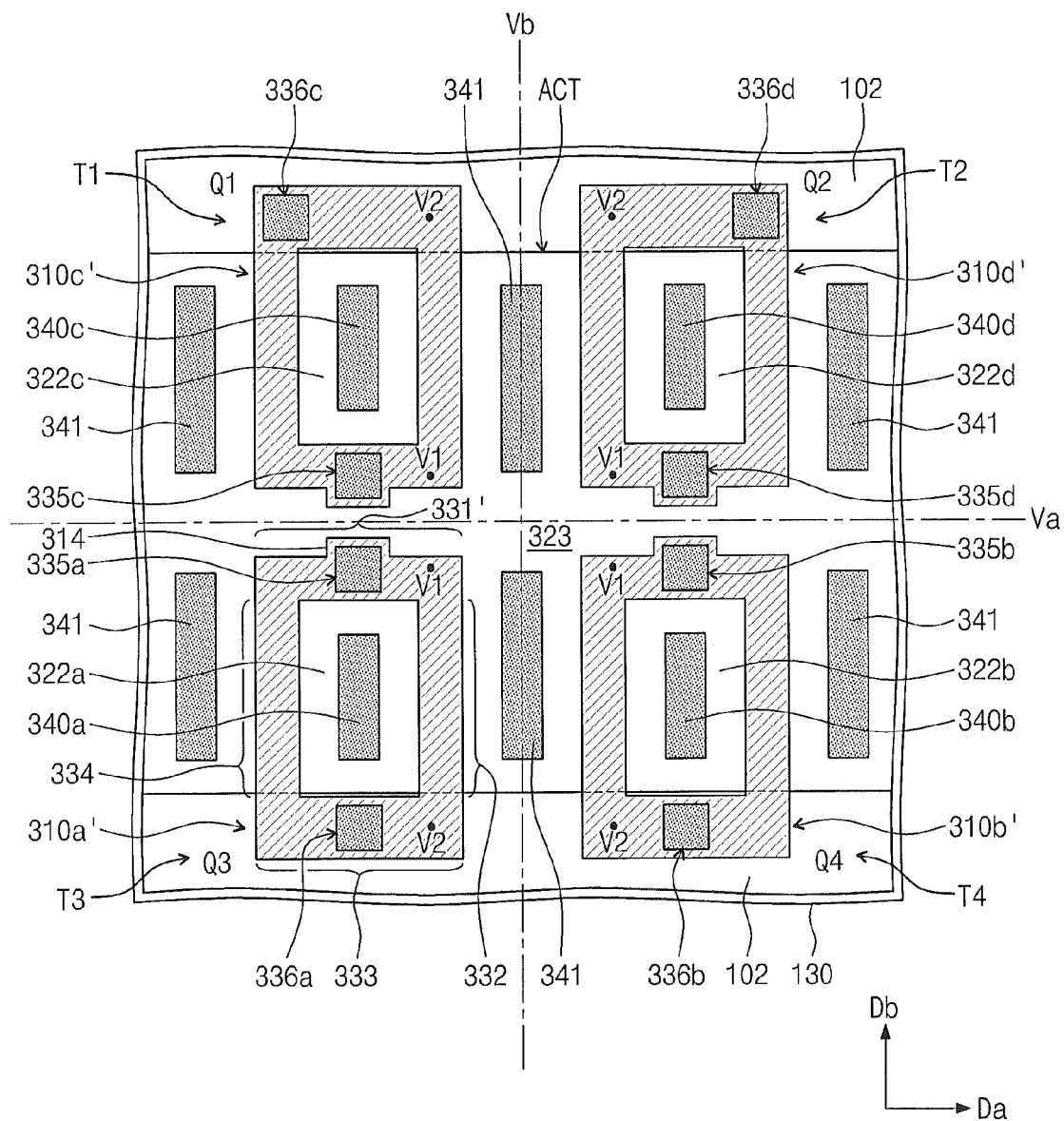


Fig. 9B



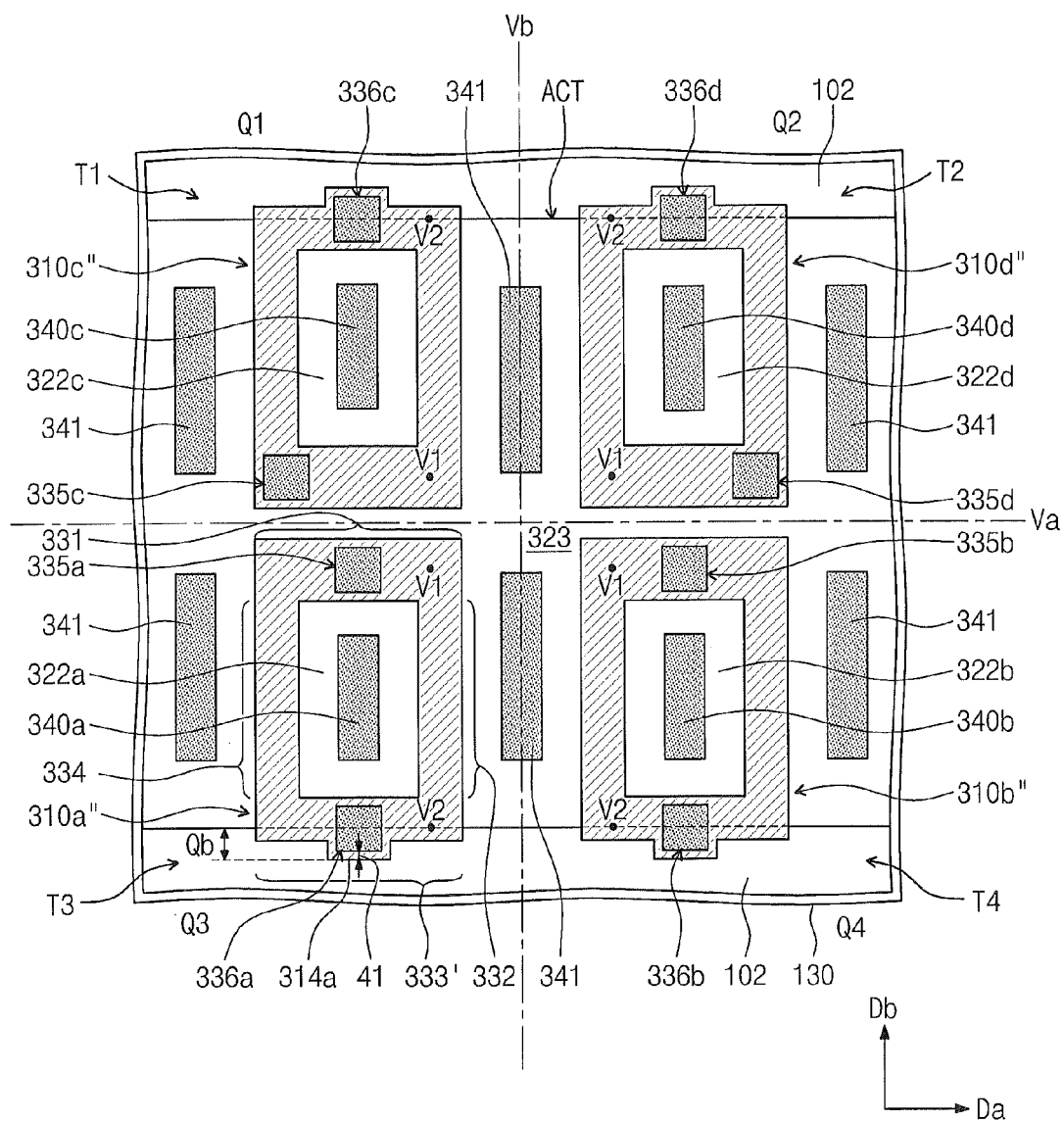


Fig. 10A

(PRIOR ART)

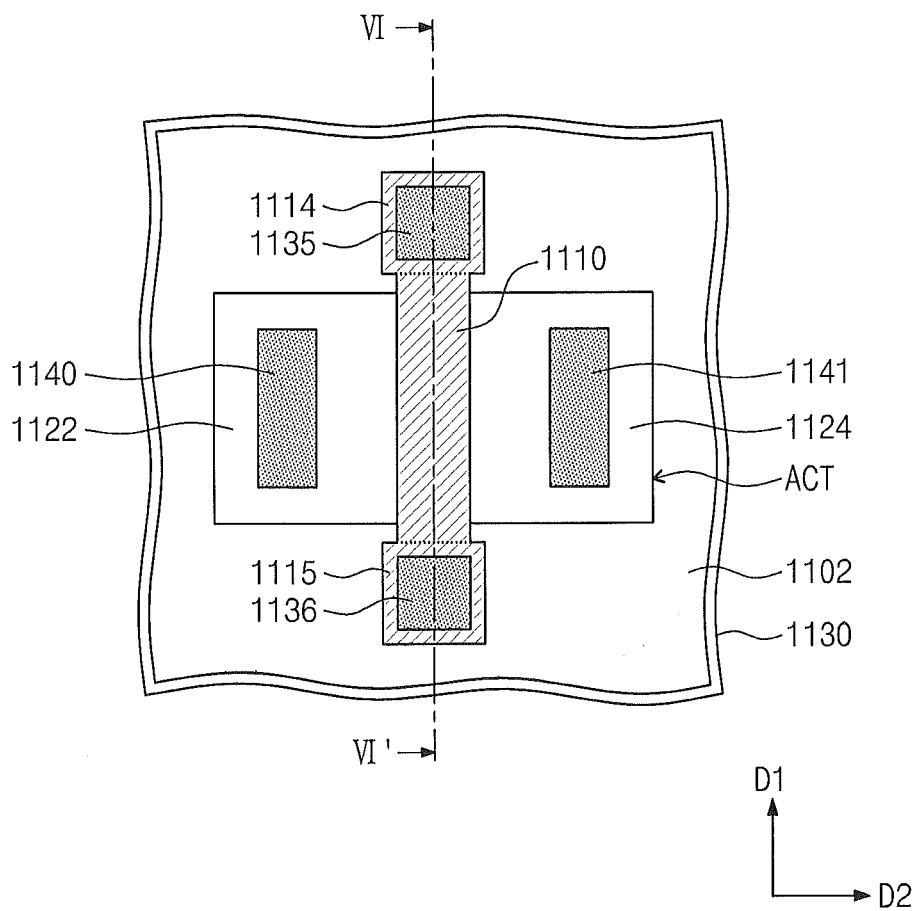


Fig. 10B

(PRIOR ART)

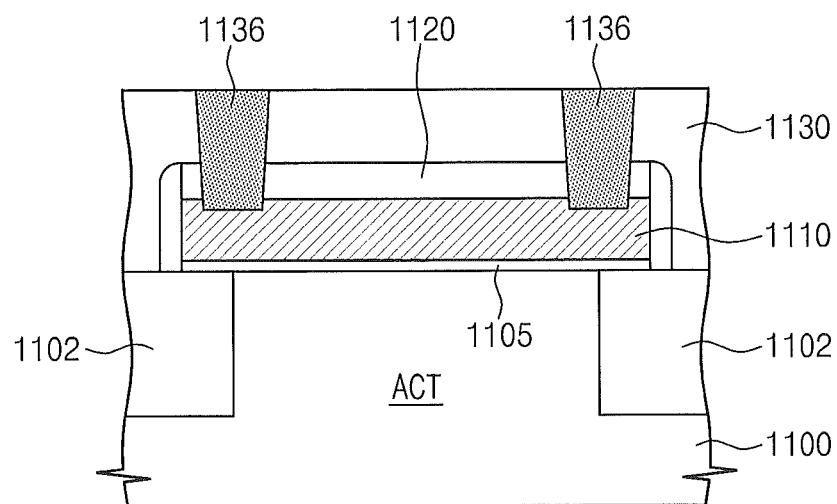
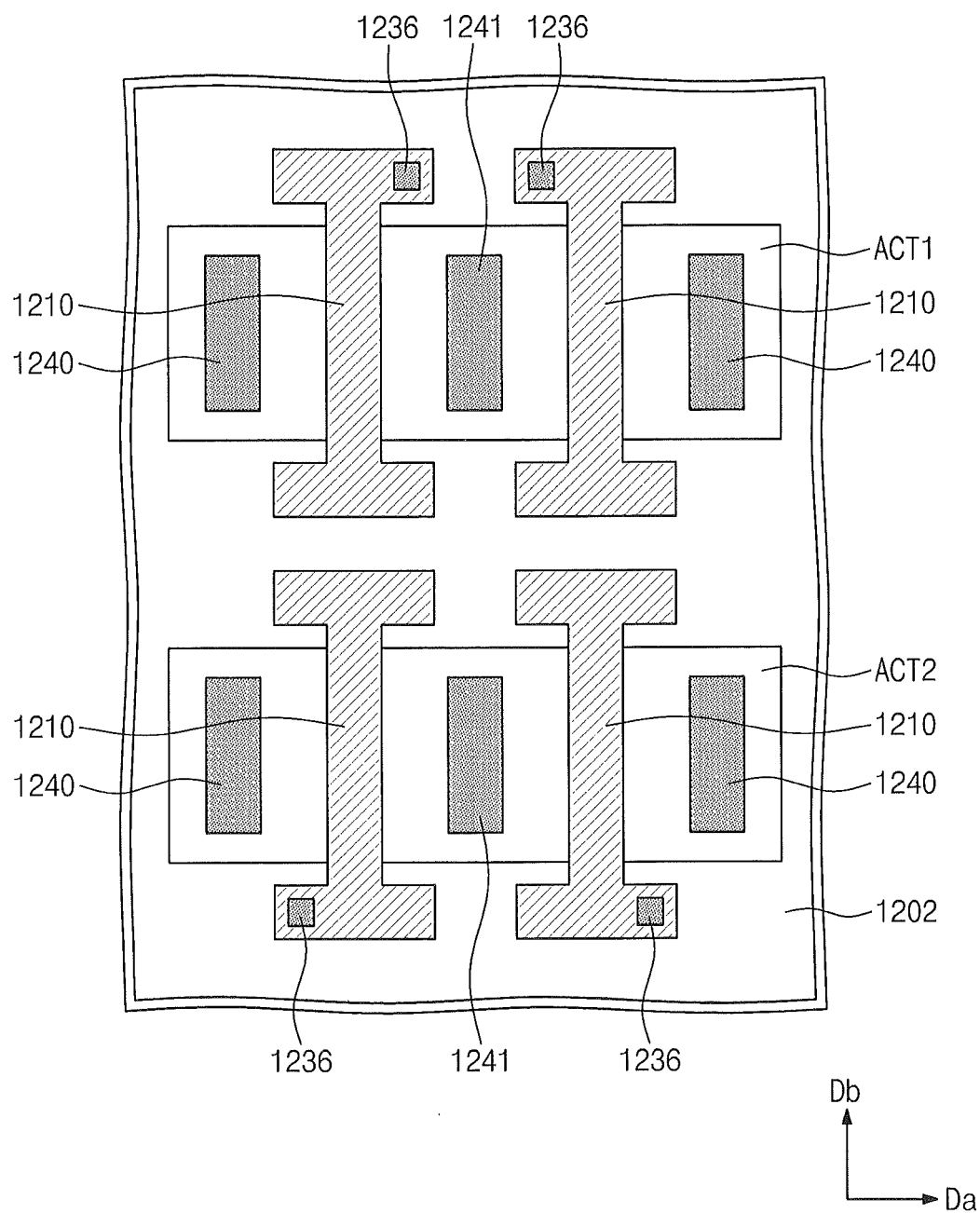


Fig. 11

(PRIOR ART)



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GATE ELECTRODE AND GATE CONTACT PLUG LAYOUTS FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTORS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This U.S. non-provisional patent application is a divisional of application Ser. No. 12/984,762, filed Jan. 5, 2011, which itself claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2010-0062512, filed on Jun. 30, 2010, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

Various embodiments described herein relate to integrated circuits, and more particularly, to field effect transistors and field effect transistor circuits for integrated circuits.

Integrated circuits may include memory devices storing data, logic devices performing a logic operation on data, and the like. A hybrid integrated circuit can include a memory device and a logic device together. Integrated circuits may use field effect transistors as the active devices thereof. Due to characteristics such as miniaturization, multifunction and/or low manufacturing cost, integrated circuits have been receiving attention as an important element in the electronics industry. As the electronics industry has been making rapid advancements, demand for highly integrated devices are increasing.

SUMMARY

Various embodiments described herein can provide a four transistor layout for an integrated circuit substrate. The four transistor layout can include an isolation region in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region, the active region extending along first and second different directions. A common source region of the four transistors extends from a center of the active region along both the first and second directions to define four quadrants of the active region that are outside the common source region. Four drain regions are provided, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants and spaced apart from the common source region. Finally, four gate electrodes are provided, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants between the common source region and a respective one of the four drain regions, a respective gate electrode including a vertex and first and second extending portions, the first extending portions extending from the vertex along the first direction and the second extending portions extending from the vertex along the second direction.

In some embodiments, the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors are symmetric with respect to the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors about a portion of the common source region that extends from the center of the active region along the first direction. In other embodiments, the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors are symmetric with respect to the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors about a portion of the common source region that extends from the center of the active region along the second direction.

Four drain contact plugs also may be provided, a respective one of which electrically contacts a respective one of the drain regions in a respective one of the four quadrants. Moreover, a

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pair of source contact plugs may be provided, a first one of which is between the second extending portions of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, a second one of which is between the second extending portions of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors.

In other embodiments, the ends of the first and second extending portions of the four gate electrodes extend beyond the active region onto the isolation region. In still other embodiments, four gate contact plugs are provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes, a first pair of which are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes adjacent the vertexes thereof and a second pair of which are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes remote from the vertexes thereof. In some embodiments, the second pair of gate contact plugs are contained within the active region.

In some embodiments, the integrated circuit substrate also includes a plurality of memory cells therein that are arranged in an array in a row direction and in a column direction. In some embodiments, the first direction is the row direction and the second direction is the column direction. The four transistors may comprise a sense amplifier for a column of the memory cells.

In still other embodiments, the active region is recessed between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors and between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, so that the isolation region protrudes between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of the first pair of the four transistors and between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors.

In yet other embodiments, a respective gate electrode also includes a third extending portion that extends from an end of a respective second extending portion that is remote from the respective vertex and extends along the first direction. In other embodiments, the respective vertex is a first respective vertex and the respective second and third extending portions define a respective second vertex therebetween. The third extending portions may at least partially overlap the isolation regions in some embodiments and, in other embodiments, the third extending portions do not substantially overlap the active region. In yet other embodiments, the ends of the first and third extending portions of the four gate electrodes extend beyond the active region onto the isolation region.

Yet other embodiments can include four gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes, a pair of which are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes adjacent the vertexes thereof and a pair of which are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes remote from the first vertexes thereof. In some embodiments, the pair of gate contact plugs that are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes remote from the first vertexes thereof are contained within the active region. In still other embodiments, the four gate contact plugs are four first gate contact plugs, the four transistor layout further comprising four second gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes, a pair of which are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes adjacent the second vertexes thereof and a pair of which are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes on the third extensions thereof remote from the second vertexes thereof.

In other embodiments, a respective gate electrode also includes a fourth extending portion that extends from an end of a respective first extending portion that is remote from the respective first vertex to an end of the respective third extend-

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ing portion that is remote from the respective second vertex, along the second direction. A respective gate electrode includes the first through fourth extending portions defining a closed loop gate electrode pattern, a respective one of which surrounds a respective one of the drain regions. Four drain contact plugs may also be provided, a respective one of which electrically contacts a respective one of the drain regions in a respective one of the four quadrants and is surrounded by a respective one of the gate electrodes. Four first gate contact plugs may also be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective midpoint of a respective one of the first and third extending portions of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors. Two second gate contact plugs may be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective first vertex of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors. Two third gate contact plugs also may be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected at a respective intersection of a respective third and fourth gate extensions of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors.

Integrated circuit field effect transistors according to other embodiments include an integrated circuit substrate, an isolation region in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region, spaced apart source and drain regions in the active region and a gate electrode on the active region between the spaced apart source and drain regions. The gate electrode extends across the active region and onto the isolation region and includes therein a landing pad that is wider than a non-landing pad portion of the gate electrode. A gate contact plug electrically contacts the gate electrode at the landing pad. In some embodiments, the landing pad at least partially overlaps the isolation region and the gate contact plug at least partially overlaps the active region. In some of these embodiments, the landing pad also at least partially overlaps the isolation region, and the gate contact plug also at least partially overlaps the isolation region.

In some embodiments, the landing pad is a first landing pad and the gate contact plug is a first gate contact plug. The gate electrode may also include a second landing pad that is wider than the non-landing pad portion of the gate electrode, and a second gate contact plug that electrically contacts the gate electrode at the second landing pad. The second landing pad may at least partially overlap the active region, and the second gate contact plug may at least partially overlap the active region.

In some of these embodiments, the first landing pad is located at a first end of the gate electrode and the second landing pad is located at a second end of the gate electrode that is opposite the first end. In other embodiments, the first and second landing pads also at least partially overlap the isolation region. The first and second gate contact plugs also at least partially overlap the isolation region.

Moreover, in other embodiments, the gate electrode including the landing pad comprises a first layer comprising polysilicon adjacent the substrate and a second layer comprising metal silicide on the first layer comprising polysilicon, and the gate contact plug comprises the metal and directly contacts the second layer comprising metal silicide. The metal may comprise tungsten.

A semiconductor device according to still other embodiments described herein may include a device isolation disposed in a substrate to define an active region. A gate electrode is disposed on the active region and includes a first extending portion extending in a first direction and a second extending portion extending in a second direction that is different from the first direction. A gate dielectric layer is disposed between the gate electrode and the active region. An

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interlayer dielectric layer is disposed on the substrate including the gate electrode. A gate contact plug penetrates the interlayer dielectric layer to contact the gate electrode. At least a portion of the gate contact plug overlaps the active region.

In some embodiments, the first extending portion of the gate electrode comprises a first edge portion overlapping a device isolation pattern adjacent to one side of the active region. In other embodiments, the second extending portion of the gate electrode comprises a second edge portion overlapping the device isolation pattern adjacent to another side of the active region.

Moreover, in some embodiments, at least one of the first extending portion or the second extending portion comprises a landing portion and a non-landing portion. A width of the landing portion is greater than a width of the non-landing portion, and the gate contact plug contacts the landing portion. In other embodiments, the first extending portion comprises the landing portion and the non-landing portion, a portion of the landing portion of the first extending portion overlaps the active region, another portion of the landing portion of the first extending portion overlaps the device isolation pattern, and the portion of the landing portion, overlapping the device isolation pattern, is the first edge portion. In still other embodiments, the gate electrode further comprises a third extending portion parallel to and facing the first extending portion, the first extending portion and the third extending portion are respectively connected to both ends of the second extending portion, and at least a portion of the third extending portion overlaps the device isolation pattern.

In yet other embodiments, the gate electrode further comprises a third extending portion facing the first extending portion and spaced apart from the first extending portion, and a fourth extending portion facing the second extending portion and spaced apart from the second extending portion, and the gate electrode has a closed loop shape in plan view. In yet other embodiments, at least one of the first, second, third or fourth extending portions comprises a landing portion for contacting the gate contact plug and a non-landing portion, and a width of the landing portion is greater than a width of the non-landing portion. In still other embodiments, a portion of an upper surface of the gate contact plug overlaps the device isolation pattern, and another portion of the upper surface of the first-gate contact plug overlaps the active region. In yet other embodiments, the entire upper surface of the gate contact plug overlaps the active region.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the inventive concept, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept and, together with the description, serve to explain principles of the inventive concept. In the drawings:

FIG. 1A is a plan view of an integrated circuit device according to various embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view taken along line I-I' of FIG. 1A;

FIG. 1C is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II' of FIG. 1A;

FIG. 2A is a plan view illustrating a modified example of an integrated circuit device according to embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 2B is a cross-sectional view taken along line III-III' of FIG. 2A;

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FIG. 3A is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 3B is a perspective view for illustrating the gate electrode included in the device of FIG. 3A;

FIG. 4 is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments;

FIG. 5A is a plan view of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view taken along line IV-IV' of FIG. 5A;

FIG. 6A is a circuit diagram of an NMOS sense amplifier driver included in a sense amplifier block of an integrated circuit device according to various embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 6B is a circuit diagram of a PMOS sense amplifier driver included in a sense amplifier block of an integrated circuit device according to various embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 7A is a plan view illustrating a modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 7B is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 7C is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 7D is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 7E is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 8A is a plan view of an integrated circuit device according to still other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 8B is a cross-sectional view taken along line V-V' of FIG. 8A;

FIG. 9A is a plan view illustrating a modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept;

FIG. 9B is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept; and

FIG. 9C is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

FIG. 10A is a plan view of a conventional integrated circuit device.

FIG. 10B is a cross-sectional view taken along line VI-VI' of FIG. 10A.

FIG. 11 is a plan view of a conventional four transistor layout for an integrated circuit substrate.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Advantages and features of the present invention, and implementation methods thereof will be clarified through following embodiments described with reference to the accompanying drawings. The present invention may, however, be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the present invention to those skilled in the art. Further, the

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present invention is only defined by scope of claims. Like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout. As used herein the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items and may be abbreviated as "/".

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention. As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises," "comprising," "having," "including," "includes," "including" and/or variations thereof, when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, regions, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, regions, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

It will be understood that when an element such as a layer or region is referred to as being "on" or extending "onto" another element (and/or variations thereof), it can be directly on or extend directly onto the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on" or extending "directly onto" another element (and/or variations thereof), there are no intervening elements present. It will also be understood that when an element is referred to as being "connected" or "coupled" to another element (and/or variations thereof), it can be directly connected or coupled to the other element or intervening elements may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly connected" or "directly coupled" to another element (and/or variations thereof), there are no intervening elements present.

It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, materials, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, material, region, layer or section from another element, material, region, layer or section. Thus, a first element, material, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, material, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the present invention.

Relative terms may be used herein to describe one element's relationship to another element as illustrated in the Figures. These relative terms generally relate to an element's position relative to a substrate, when the substrate is at the bottom of a drawing. However, it will be understood that relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in addition to the orientation depicted in the Figures. For example, if the structure in the Figure is turned over, elements described as being on the "backside" of substrate would then be oriented on "upper" surface of the substrate. The exemplary term "upper", can therefore, encompass both an orientation of "lower" and "upper," depending on the particular orientation of the figure. Similarly, if the structure in one of the figures is turned over, elements described as "below", "beneath" or "under" other elements would then be oriented "above" or "over" the other elements. The exemplary terms "below", "beneath", "under" "above" and "over" can, therefore, encompass both an orientation of above and below. Also, the terms "horizontal" and "vertical," and the terms "x", "y" and "z" are used herein to describe generally orthogonal directions and do not imply a specific orientation.

It also will be understood that, as used herein, the terms "row" or "horizontal" and "column" or "vertical" indicate two relative non-parallel directions that may be orthogonal to

one another. However, these terms also are intended to encompass different orientations.

Embodiments of the present invention are described herein with reference to cross section and perspective illustrations that are schematic illustrations of idealized embodiments of the present invention. As such, variations from the shapes of the illustrations as a result, for example, of manufacturing techniques and/or tolerances, are to be expected. Thus, embodiments of the present invention should not be construed as limited to the particular shapes of regions illustrated herein but are to include deviations in shapes that result, for example, from manufacturing. For example, a region illustrated or described as flat may, typically, have rough and/or nonlinear features. Moreover, sharp angles that are illustrated, typically, may be rounded. Thus, the regions illustrated in the figures are schematic in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the precise shape of a region and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

Embodiment 1

FIG. 1A is a plan view of an integrated circuit device according to various embodiments of the inventive concept, FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view taken along line I-I' of FIG. 1A, and FIG. 1C is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II' of FIG. 1A.

Referring to FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C, a device isolation pattern **102** defining an active region ACT may be disposed in an integrated circuit substrate **100** such as a semiconductor substrate (hereinafter referred to as 'substrate'). The active region ACT may correspond to a portion of the substrate **100** enclosed by the device isolation pattern **102**. The device isolation pattern **102** may be formed by using a trench type device isolation method. For example, the device isolation pattern **102** may fill a trench formed in the substrate **100**. The substrate **100** may be a silicon substrate, a germanium substrate, a silicon-germanium substrate and/or various other microelectronic substrates including one or more layers. The device isolation pattern **102** may include oxide, nitride and/or oxynitride. The active region ACT may be doped with a first conductivity type dopant.

A gate electrode **110** is disposed over the active region ACT. As shown in FIG. 1A, the gate electrode **110** may extend in a first direction D1 parallel to an upper surface of the substrate **100** to cross the active region ACT in plan view. That is, the first direction D1 may be a longitudinal direction of the gate electrode **110**. As shown in FIGS. 1B and 1C, a gate dielectric layer **105** may be disposed between the gate electrode **110** and the active region ACT. A capping dielectric pattern **120** may be disposed on the gate electrode **110**. The capping dielectric pattern **120** may have a sidewall self-aligned with a sidewall of the gate electrode **110**. The gate dielectric layer **110** may be a single layer or a multilayer formed of oxide, nitride, high k dielectric and/or oxynitride. The high k dielectric may have a higher dielectric constant than nitride. For example, the high k dielectric may include insulating metal oxides such as hafnium oxide, aluminum oxide, and/or the like. The capping dielectric pattern **120** may include oxide, nitride and/or oxynitride. The capping dielectric pattern **120** and the gate electrode **110** may be formed by using a mask pattern (not shown) defining the gate electrode **110**.

The gate electrode **110** may be formed of a conductive material. For example, the gate electrode **110** may include semiconductor doped with a dopant (e.g., doped silicon, doped silicon-germanium, doped germanium and/or the like), metal (e.g., titanium, tantalum, tungsten, aluminum and/or

the like), conductive metal nitride (e.g., titanium nitride, tantalum nitride and/or the like), and/or conductive metal-semiconductor compound (e.g., tungsten silicide, cobalt silicide, nickel silicide, titanium silicide and/or the like). The gate electrode **110** may be formed in a single layer or multilayer. According to an embodiment, the gate electrode **110** may include a doped semiconductor such as polysilicon and a conductive metal-semiconductor compound such as a metal silicide like tungsten silicide, sequentially stacked. In other embodiments, the gate electrode **110** may include a conductive metal nitride and a metal sequentially stacked. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The gate electrode **110** may have a three-layer or more stack structure.

As disclosed in FIGS. 1A and 1B, the gate electrode **110** may include a first edge portion **111** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. Additionally, the gate electrode **110** may include a second edge portion **112** positioned at an opposite side to the first edge portion **111**. The second edge portion **112** may overlap another portion of the device isolation pattern **102** positioned at an opposite side to a portion of the device isolation pattern **102** overlapping the first edge portion **111**. As shown in FIG. 1A, the gate electrode **110** may extend in the first direction D1 to cross both sides of the active region ACT which are parallel to a second direction D2. The second direction D2 may be perpendicular to the first direction D1, and may be parallel to the upper surface of the substrate **100**. The first and second edge portions **111** and **112** may be connected to both ends of a portion overlapping the active region ACT of the gate electrode **110**. The first edge portion **111** may have a first length L1 in the first direction D1 and the second edge portion **112** has a second length L2 in the first direction D1.

A first source/drain region **122** and a second source/drain region **124** may be disposed in the active regions ACT at both sides of the gate electrode **110**, respectively. The first and second source/drain regions **122**, **124** may be doped regions doped with a second conductivity type dopant. The second conductivity type dopant is different from the first conductivity type dopant. For example, one of the first conductivity type dopant or the second conductivity type dopant may be an n-type dopant and the other may be a p-type dopant. As shown in FIG. 1C, a gate spacer **119** may be disposed on sidewalls of the capping dielectric pattern **120** and gate electrode **110**. The gate spacer **119** may be formed of oxide, nitride and/or oxynitride, and may be a single layer or multilayer. An interlayer dielectric layer **130** may be disposed over an entire surface of the substrate **100** including the gate electrode **110**. The interlayer dielectric layer **130** may be formed of oxide, nitride and/or oxynitride and may be a single layer or multilayer.

A gate contact plug **135** may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer **130** and the capping dielectric pattern **120** to contact the upper surface of the gate electrode **110**. An entire lower surface of the gate contact plug **135** may contact the gate electrode **110**. At least a portion of the gate contact plug **135** may overlap the active region ACT. In other words, at least a portion of the gate contact plug **135** may overlap the active region ACT in a direction vertical to the upper surface of the substrate **100**.

According to an embodiment, as disclosed in FIGS. 1A and 1B, an upper surface of the gate contact plug **135** may include a first portion TS1 overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** and a second portion TS2 overlapping the active region ACT. In other words, a portion of the gate contact plug **135** may overlap the active region ACT and another portion of the gate contact plug **135** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102**. As shown in FIG. 1B, the upper surface of the gate contact plug **135** may be wider than the lower surface thereof.

By doing so, a sidewall of the gate contact plug 135 may have an inclination structure. The first portion TS1 of the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 may overlap the first edge portion 111.

The upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 has a first width We 1 in the first direction D1 and a second width Wc2 in the second direction D2. At this time, the first length L1 of the first edge portion 111 of the gate electrode 110 may be smaller than a sum of the first width Wc1 and a horizontal distance 30 between an end of the gate contact plug 135 overlapping the device isolation pattern 102 and an end of the first edge portion 111. The horizontal distance 30 may be a distance between an end of the first portion TS1 of the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 and the end of the first edge portion 111 in the first direction D1. The first length L1 is greater than zero (0). The end of the first edge portion 111 may correspond to an end of the gate electrode 110. According to an embodiment, the horizontal distance 30 may be about 5% to about 15% of the first width Wc1. According to an embodiment, the first length L1 of the first edge portion 111 may be smaller than the first width Wc1.

If a gate contact plug contacting a gate electrode completely overlaps a device isolation pattern, a width of an active region, in a longitudinal direction of the gate electrode, may be small in a given area. But, according to the above embodiments of the inventive concept, the width of the active region ACT in the first direction D1 can increase until the active region ACT overlaps at least a portion of the gate contact plug 135 when a length of the gate electrode 110 in the first direction D1, according to embodiments of the inventive concept, may be the same as a length of the gate electrode having the gate contact plug completely overlapping the device isolation pattern. A channel region may be defined in the active region ACT below the gate electrode 110. The width of the active region ACT in the first direction D1 corresponds to a channel width of the channel region. As the width of the active region ACT in the first direction D1 increases, the channel width increases. Therefore, the amount of turn-on current of a field effect transistor (hereinafter referred to as 'transistor') including the gate electrode 110 can increase. As a result, a device which is configured for high integration and has superior reliability can be realized.

If the gate contact plug completely overlaps the device isolation pattern, a length of an edge portion of the gate electrode, overlapping the device isolation pattern, may be greater than a sum of the first width Wc1 and the horizontal distance 30, such that a width of the active region in the longitudinal direction of the gate electrode decreases. In this case, the channel width of the transistor decreases and thus the amount of turn-on current of the transistor decreases.

However, as aforementioned, according to various embodiments of the inventive concept, at least a portion of the gate contact plug 135 overlaps the active region ACT. Therefore, the first length L1 may be smaller than a sum of the first width Wc1 and the horizontal distance 30. As a result, the width of the active region ACT in the first direction D1 can increase in the given area, such that the amount of turn-on current of the transistor increases. Therefore, the device can be improved or optimized for high integration and can have superior reliability.

According to some embodiments, the second length L2 of the second edge portion 112 may be smaller than the sum of the first width Wc1 and the horizontal distance 30. More concretely, the second length L2 of the second edge portion 112 may be smaller than the first width We 1. By doing so, the

width of the active region ACT in the first direction D1 can be further increased. Of course, the second length L2 is greater than zero (0).

In FIG. 1A, the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 is shown in a rectangular shape. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. By an exposure effect of a photolithography process and/or design of layout, the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 may have a polygonal, circular and/or elliptical shape in plan view. According to an embodiment, when the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 has a circular and/or elliptical shape, the first width Wc1 of the gate contact plug 135 may correspond to a maximum width in the first direction D1.

According to some embodiments, as shown in FIG. 1A, the width Wg of the gate electrode 110 in the second direction D2 may be substantially uniform. In this case, to secure a margin for misalignment in the second direction D2 of the gate contact plug 135, the width Wg of the gate electrode 110 may be greater than the second width Wc2 of the gate contact plug 135. For example, the width Wg of the gate electrode 110 may be about 110% to about 130% of the second width Wc2 of the gate contact plug 135. The width Wg of the gate electrode 110 may correspond to the channel length of the channel generated in the channel region.

The gate contact plug 135 may be formed of a conductive material. For example, the gate contact plug 135 may include metals (e.g., tungsten, tantalum, titanium and/or copper) and conductive metal nitrides (e.g., titanium nitride, tantalum nitride). In some embodiments, when the gate includes a metal silicide layer such as tungsten silicide, the gate contact plug comprises the metal, such as tungsten. According to some embodiments, another gate contact plug may be provided on the gate electrode 110. The other gate contact plug may have the same size and/or shape as the gate contact plug 135. The other gate contact plug may be laterally spaced apart from the gate contact plug 135. At least a portion of the other gate contact plug may overlap the active region ACT. The other gate contact plug may partially contact the second edge portion 112 or completely overlaps the active region ACT.

Referring to FIGS. 1A and 1C, a first source/drain-contact plug 140 and a second source/drain-contact plug 141 may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 to contact the first source/drain 122 and the second source/drain 124, respectively. Upper surfaces of the first source/drain-contact plug 140 and second source/drain-contact plug 141 may have a bar shape extending in parallel along the first direction D1. Due to this, a shortest distance between a central portion of the channel region and the source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141 may be substantially the same as a shortest distance between an edge of the channel region and the source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141. As a result, the amount of turn-on current of the transistor can be increased.

As disclosed in FIGS. 1B and 1C, the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 may be coplanar with the upper surface of the interlayer dielectric layer 130. Upper surfaces of the source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141 may be coplanar with the upper surface of the interlayer dielectric layer 130. Therefore, the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135 may be positioned substantially at the same level as the upper surfaces of the source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The upper surfaces of the source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141 may be positioned at a lower level or higher level than the upper surface of the gate contact plug 135. The source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141 may be formed of a conductive material. For example, the source/drain-contact plugs 140, 141 may include metal (e.g., tungsten, tantalum, titanium and/or copper) and/or conduc-

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tive metal nitride (e.g., titanium nitride and/or tantalum nitride). According to some embodiments, the source/drain-contact plugs **140**, **141** may be formed of the same material as the gate contact plug **135**.

As disclosed in FIGS. **1B** and **1C**, a first interconnection **150a**, a second interconnection **150b** and a third interconnection line **150c** may be disposed on the interlayer dielectric layer **130**. The first interconnection line **150a** may be connected to the gate contact plug **135**. The second interconnection line **150b** may be connected to the first source/drain-contact plug **140**, and the third interconnection line **150c** may be connected to the second source/drain-contact plug **141**. The first, second and third interconnection lines **150a**, **150b** and **150c** may be implemented in various shapes according to characteristics desired for the device. According to some embodiments, the transistors shown in FIGS. **1A**, **1B** and **1C** may be implemented as transistors (e.g., transistors of a peripheral circuit) performing various uses and/or various functions desired for the device.

Next, modified examples of integrated circuit devices according to various embodiments will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. **2A** is a plan view illustrating a modified example of an integrated circuit device according to an embodiment of the inventive concept, and FIG. **2B** is a cross-sectional view taken along line III-III' of FIG. **2A**.

Referring to FIGS. **2A** and **2B**, a gate contact plug **135** may completely overlap the active region ACT. That is, the entire upper surface of the gate contact plug **135** may overlap the active region ACT. The gate electrode **110** includes a first edge portion **111a** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. At this time, a first length **L1'** of the first edge portion **111a** in the first direction **D1** may be smaller than a first width **Wc1** of the gate contact plug **135** in the first direction **D1**. The first length **L1'** of the first edge portion **111a** is greater than zero (0). The gate electrode **110** may further include a second edge portion **112a**. The second edge portion **112a** is positioned at an opposite side to the first edge portion **111a** and overlaps the device isolation pattern **102**. The second length **L2'** of the second edge portion **112a** in the first direction **D1** may be smaller than the first width **Wc1** of the gate contact plug **135**. The second length **L2'** of the second edge portion **112a** is also greater than Zero (0).

According to the present modified example, the entire upper surface of the gate contact plug **135** overlaps the active region ACT and the first length **L1'** of the first edge portion **111a** may be smaller than the first width **Wc1** of the gate contact plug **135**. Also, the second length **L2'** of the second edge portion **112a** may be also smaller than the first width **Wc1**. Therefore, the width of the active region ACT in the first direction **D1** can be further increased.

FIG. **3A** is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to an embodiment of the inventive concept, and FIG. **3B** is a perspective view for illustrating the gate electrode included in the device of FIG. **3A**. For description of the gate electrode in FIG. **3B**, the interlayer dielectric layer **130**, the capping dielectric pattern **120**, the spacer **119** and the first source/drain-contact plug **140** are omitted.

Referring to FIGS. **3A** and **3B**, a gate electrode **110a** may extend in a first direction **D1** to cross over an active region ACT. The gate electrode **110a** may include a first landing portion **114**, a non-landing portion **116** and a second landing portion **115**. The first and second landing portions **114** and **115** may be connected to both ends of the non-landing portion **116**, respectively. The second landing portion **115**, the non-landing portion **116** and the first landing portion **114** may be

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arranged sequentially along the first direction **D1**. A first gate contact plug **135** may contact the first landing portion **114** and a second gate contact plug **136** may contact the second landing portion **115**. The gate contact plugs **135** and **136** may not contact the non-landing portion **116**. That is, the first and second landing portions **114** and **115** of the gate electrode **110a** may be portions for contacting the gate contact plugs **135** and **136**. In FIG. **3B**, the first and second gate contact plugs **135** and **136** are shown in a square pillar shape. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The first and second gate contact plugs **135** and **136** may be implemented in another shape (e.g., cylindrical shape, elliptic cylindrical shape and/or the like). A gate dielectric layer **105** may be disposed between the gate electrode **110a** and the active region ACT. Also, the capping dielectric pattern **120** of FIGS. **1A**, **1B** and **1C** may be disposed on the gate electrode **110a**. The gate electrode **110a** may be formed of the same material as the gate electrode **110** of FIGS. **1A**, **1B** and **1C**.

The first landing portion **114** has a first width **K1** in a second direction **D2** perpendicular to the first direction **D1**, and the non-landing portion **116** has a second width **K2** in the second direction **D2**. At this time, the first width **K1** of the first landing portion **114** may be greater than the second width **K2** of the non-landing portion **116**. Likewise, a third width **K3** of the second landing portion **115** in the second direction **D2** may be greater than the second width **K2** of the non-landing portion **116**. The first width **K1** of the first landing portion **114** may be equal to the third width **K3** of the second landing portion **115**. The first gate contact plug **135** has a first width **Wc1** in the first direction **D1** and a second width **Wc2** in the second direction **D2**. To secure a margin for misalignment of the first gate contact plug **135**, the first width **K1** of the first landing portion **114** may be greater than the second width **Wc2** of the first gate contact plug **135**. For example, the first width **K1** of the first landing portion **114** may be about 110% to about 130% of the second width **Wc2** of the first gate contact plug **135**. Likewise, the third width **K3** of the second landing portion **115** may be greater than a width of the second gate contact plug **136** in the second direction **D2**. The widths **Wc1**, **Wc2** of the first gate contact plug **135** may be respectively equal to the widths of the second gate contact plug **136** corresponding thereto. Therefore, the third width **K3** of the second landing portion **115** may be about 110% to 130% of the second width **Wc2** of the first gate contact plug **135**.

The first landing portion **114** may overlap some portion of the device isolation pattern **102** and some portion of the active region ACT adjacent thereto. Also, the upper surface of the first gate contact plug **135** may also overlap some portion of the device isolation pattern **102** and some portion of the active region ACT adjacent thereto. At this time, the portion **111b** of the first landing portion **114** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may have a first length **La** in the first direction **D1**. The first length **La** may be smaller than a sum of the first width **Wc1** and a first horizontal distance **30a**. The first horizontal distance **30a** may be a horizontal distance in the first direction **D1** between one end of the first gate contact plug **135** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** and one end of the portion **111b** of the first landing portion **114**. The portion **111b** of the first landing portion **114** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may correspond to a first edge portion of the gate electrode **110a** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. The first length **La** is greater than zero (0). For example, the first horizontal length **30a** may be about 5% to about 15% of the first width **Wc1**. According to an embodiment, the first length **La** may be smaller than the first width **Wc1**.

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Similarly to this, the second landing portion **115** may overlap another portion of the device isolation pattern **102** and another portion of the active region ACT adjacent thereto. Also, a portion of the upper surface of the second gate contact plug **136** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102** and another portion may overlap the active region ACT. A portion **112b** of the second landing portion **115** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may have a second length L_b in the first direction D1. The second length L_b may be smaller than a sum of a width of the second gate contact plug **136** in the first direction D1 and a second horizontal distance **30b**. The second horizontal distance **30b** may be a horizontal distance in the first direction D1 between one end of the second gate contact plug **136** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** and one end of the portion **112b** of the second landing portion **115**. The portion **112b** of the second landing portion **115** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may correspond to a second edge portion overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** of the gate electrode **110a**. The second length L_b is greater than zero (0). For example, the second horizontal distance **30b** may be about 5% to about 15% of the width of the second gate contact plug **136** in the first direction D1. According to some embodiments, the second length L_b may be smaller than the width of the second gate contact plug **136** in the first direction D1.

The widths K_1 , K_2 and K_3 of the first landing portion **114**, non-landing portion **116** and second landing portion **115** may correspond to channel lengths of a channel region defined below the gate electrode **110a**. As aforementioned, the widths of the first and second landing portions **114** and **115** may be greater than the width K_2 of the non-landing portion **116**. Therefore, the channel lengths below the landing portions **114** and **115** may be greater than the channel length below the non-landing portion **116**. According to the present modified example, since each of the first and second landing portions **114** and **115** overlaps the device isolation pattern **102** and the active region ACT, the first and second landing portions **114** and **115** may cover some portions of a boundary of the device isolation pattern **102** and the active region ACT.

The channel region defined below the gate electrode **110a** may include first portions and a second portion. The first portions of the channel region are adjacent to the boundary and are covered by the landing portions **114** and **115**, and the second portion of the channel region is covered by the non-landing portion **116**. In the case where an operation voltage is applied to the gate electrode **110a**, an electric field may be concentrated on the boundary. In other words, the intensity of a first electric field provided to the first portion of the channel region by the operation voltage may be greater than that of a second electric field provided to the second portion of the channel region. Due to this, the first portion of the channel region may be turned on before the second portion of the channel region is turned on, so that leakage current may be generated. However, according to the present modified example, the channel length below the landing portions **114** and **115** is longer than the channel length below the non-landing portion **116**. Therefore, the resistance of the first portion of the channel region may be greater than the resistance of the second portion of the channel region and thus leakage current through the first portions of the channel region may be minimized by the landing portions **114** and **115**. As a result, since the landing portions **114** and **115** and the gate contact plugs **135** and **136** partially overlap the active region ACT, the amount of turn-on current of the transistor within a given area can be increased, and since the landing portions **114** and **115** cover the boundary, leakage current of the transistor can be reduced or minimized.

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FIG. 4 is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments.

Referring to FIG. 4, a gate electrode **110b** may extend in a first direction D1 to cross over an active region ACT. A gate dielectric layer (see **105** of FIGS. 1B and 1C) may be disposed between the gate electrode **110b** and the active region ACT, and a capping dielectric pattern (see **120** of FIGS. 1B and 1C) may be disposed on the gate electrode **110b**.

The gate electrode **110b** may include a landing portion **114a** and non-landing portions **116a** and **116b**. According to the present modified example, the landing portion **114a** may completely overlap the active region ACT. That is, a whole of the landing portion **114a** may overlap the active region ACT. Therefore, a gate contact plug **135** contacting an upper surface of the landing portion **114a** may completely overlap the active region ACT. The landing portion **114a** may be disposed between a first non-landing portion **116a** and a second non-landing portion **116b**. The gate electrode **110b** may include a first edge portion **111c** and a second edge portion **112c** which overlap the device isolation pattern **102**. The first edge portion **111c** may be a portion of the first non-landing portion **116a** and the second edge portion **112c** may be a portion of the second non-landing portion **116b**. The first edge portion **111c** may have a first length L_a' in the first direction D1 and the second edge portion **112c** may have a second length L_b' in the first direction D1. As the landing portion **114a** completely overlaps the active region ACT, the first length L_a' of the first edge portion **111c** of the gate electrode **110b** may be smaller than a width W_{c1} of the gate contact plug **135** in the first direction. Likewise, the second length L_b' of the second edge portion **112c** of the gate electrode **110b** may be smaller than the width W_{c1} of the gate contact plug **135**.

According to the present modified example, an entire region of the landing portion **114a** may overlap the active region ACT. Therefore, the first and second lengths L_a' and L_b' may be smaller than the width W_{c1} of the gate contact plug **135**. As a result, the width of the active region ACT in the first direction D1 within a given area is increased and thus the channel width of the transistor within the given area can be increased.

According to an embodiment, prior to forming the gate electrode **110b**, dopant ions for controlling the threshold voltage of the transistor may be selectively implanted into an edge portion of the active region ACT adjacent to the boundary between the device isolation pattern **102** and the active region ACT. At this time, the dopant ions for controlling the threshold voltage may not be implanted into a central portion of the active region ACT. Accordingly, the threshold voltage of the first portion of the channel region adjacent to the boundary and the threshold voltage of the second portion of the channel region defined at a central portion of the active region ACT may be different. By doing so, the leakage current due to the concentration of the electric field on the boundary can be reduced or minimized. That is, an absolute value of the threshold voltage of the first portion of the channel region is made greater than an absolute value of the threshold voltage of the second portion of the channel region, thereby allowing the reducing or minimizing of the leakage current through the first portion of the channel region.

Additional discussion of various embodiments of the inventive concept as illustrated in FIGS. 1A-4 and as described herein, will now be provided. Specifically, various embodiments of FIGS. 1A-4 can provide an integrated circuit field effect transistor that comprises an integrated circuit substrate **100**, an isolation region **102** in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region ACT, and spaced apart

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source and drain regions **122** and **124** in the active region. A gate electrode **110**, **110a**, **110b** may be provided on the active region ACT between the spaced apart source and drain regions **122** and **124**. The gate electrode extends across the active region ACT and onto the isolation region **102**, and includes therein a landing pad **114**, **115** that is wider than a non-landing pad portion **116** of the gate electrode **110**. A gate contact plug **135**, **136** electrically contacts the gate electrode **110**, **110a**, **110b** at the landing pad **114**, **115**, wherein the landing pad at least partially overlaps the active region ACT and wherein the gate contact plug at least partially overlaps the active region ACT. In other embodiments, the landing pad **114**, **115** may also at least partially overlap the isolation region **102** and/or the gate contact plug **135**, **136** may also partially overlap the isolation region **102**. A single landing pad and a single gate contact plug may be provided in some embodiments (e.g., FIG. 4). In other embodiments, first and second landing pads and corresponding first and second gate contacts may be provided, for example at opposite ends of the gate electrode (e.g., FIGS. 3A-3B).

In some embodiments, the gate electrode **110** including the landing pad(s) comprises a first layer comprising polysilicon adjacent the substrate **100** and a second layer comprising metal silicide on the first layer comprising polysilicon, and a gate contact plug **135**, **136** comprising the metal directly contacts the second layer comprising metal silicide. In other embodiments, the metal comprises tungsten.

Integrated circuit field effect transistors according to other embodiments of FIGS. 1A-4 include an integrated circuit substrate **100**, an isolation region **102** in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region ACT and spaced apart source and drain regions **122**, **124** in the active region ACT. A gate electrode **110**, **110a** is provided on the active region between the spaced apart source and drain regions **122**, **124**. The gate electrode **110**, **110a** extends across the active region and into the isolation region. A gate contact plug **135**, **136** electrically contacts the gate electrode and at least partially overlaps the active region. The gate electrode comprises a first layer comprising polysilicon adjacent the substrate and a second layer comprising metal silicide on the first layer comprising polysilicon. The gate contact plug **135**, **136** comprises the metal and directly contacts the second layer comprising metal silicide. In some embodiments, the metal comprises tungsten and/or the gate contact plug can fully overlap the active region. In still other embodiments, a gate electrode **110**, **110a** is provided on the active region between the spaced apart source and drain regions **122**, **124**, the gate electrode extending across the active region ACT and onto the isolation region **102**. A gate contact plug **135**, **136** electrically contacts the gate electrode. The gate contact plug **135**, **136** partially overlaps the isolation region **102** and partially overlaps the active region ACT.

Various embodiments described above may arise from recognition that conventional devices illustrated in FIGS. 10A and 10B may include an isolation region **1102** in an integrated circuit substrate **1100** that defines spaced apart first and second source/drain regions **1122/1124**, a gate electrode **1110** that extends across the active region ACT onto the isolation region **1102**, and a source contact and a drain contact **1140** and **1141**, respectively. First and second landing pads **1114**, **1115** may be provided on the isolation region **1102** that does not extend over the active region ACT. More specifically, when gate polysilicon **1110** is provided on a gate dielectric layer **1105** and a tungsten (or other metal) silicide layer **1120** is provided on the gate polysilicon layer **1110**, the tungsten silicide material **1120** must be removed, and one or more polysilicon gate contact plugs **1135**, **1136** are provided that

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penetrate through the tungsten silicide **1120** to directly contact the gate polysilicon layer **1110**. However, a chemical solution for removing the tungsten silicide **1120** penetrates the gate insulating layer **1105** through the grain boundaries of the gate polysilicon **1110** and deteriorates the gate oxide **1105**. Accordingly, conventionally, it is forbidden to place the polysilicon gate contact plugs **1135**, **1136** over the active region ACT. Rather, the gate contact plugs **1135**, **1136** are placed over the isolation region **1102**. Stated differently, the active region ACT is not allowed to overlap with the gate contact plugs **1135**, **1136**. This may cause the transistor width to shrink, which may limit the drive current thereof.

However, according to some embodiments described herein in connection with FIGS. 1A-4, the gate contact plugs do not comprise polysilicon but, rather, comprise the metal of the metal silicide layer. Thus, the metal silicide layer need not be etched to form a gate contact plug and the gate contact plug need not directly contact the gate polysilicon layer. Accordingly, the gate contact plug(s) can be made to at least partially, and in some embodiments fully, overlap the active region. The active region can, therefore, increase in width, which can allow greater drive currents, higher reliability and/or higher integration.

Embodiment 2

FIG. 5A is a plan view of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept, and FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view taken along line IV-IV' of FIG. 5A.

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 5B, a device isolation pattern **102** defining an active region ACT is disposed in a substrate **100**. A first gate electrode **210a** may be disposed over the active region ACT. The active region ACT may correspond to a portion of the substrate **100** enclosed by the device isolation pattern **102**, and may be doped with a first conductivity type dopant. As shown in FIG. 5A, the first gate electrode **210a** may include a first extending portion **207** extending in a first direction Da and a second extending portion **208** extending in a second direction Db which is different from the first direction Da. The first and second directions Da and Db are parallel to an upper surface of the substrate **100**. The second direction Db may be perpendicular to the first direction Da.

The first and second extending portions **207** and **208** of the first gate electrode **210a** may be connected to each other over the active region ACT. As shown in FIG. 5A, the first extending portion **207** may include a first edge portion **211** overlapping some portion of the device isolation pattern **102**. The first edge portion **211** of the first extending portion **207** may overlap a portion of the device isolation pattern **102** adjacent to one side of the active region ACT parallel to the second direction Db. The second extending portion **208** may include a second edge portion **212** overlapping another portion of the device isolation pattern **102**. The second edge portion **212** of the second extending portion **208** may overlap another portion of the device isolation pattern **102** adjacent to another side of the active region ACT parallel to the first direction Da. The first edge portion **211** of the first gate electrode **210a** may have a first length M1 in the first direction Da, and the second edge portion **212** of the first gate electrode **210a** may have a second length M2 in the second direction Db.

A channel region may be defined in the active region ACT below the first gate electrode **210a**. The channel region may include a first sub region positioned below the first extending portion **207** and a second sub region positioned below the second extending portion **208**. A channel width of the channel region may be equal to a sum of a channel width of the first

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sub region in the first direction Da and a channel width of the second sub region in the second direction Db. The channel region may have a channel length in several directions. For example, the first sub region may have a first channel length corresponding to the width of the first extending portion 207 in the second direction Db, and the second sub region may have a second channel length corresponding to the width of the second extending portion 208 in the first direction Da. That is, the first and second channel lengths may extend in different directions.

A second gate electrode 210b may be disposed spaced apart from the first gate electrode 210a in the first direction Da. A third gate electrode 210c may be disposed spaced apart from the first gate electrode 210a in the second direction Db. A fourth gate electrode 210d may be disposed spaced apart from the third gate electrode in the first direction Da. In other words, the first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d may be arranged two-dimensionally along a row direction and a column direction on one active region ACT. The row direction is perpendicular to the column direction. The row direction may be parallel to the first direction Da and the column direction may be parallel to the second direction Db. The first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d may be spaced apart from one another. According to an embodiment, the second gate electrode 210b may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode 210a with respect to a first virtual straight line Vb passing through a central point C of the active region ACT and extending in the second direction Db. The third gate electrode 210c may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode 210a with respect to a second virtual straight line Va passing through the central point C and extending in the first direction Da. The fourth gate electrode 210d may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode 210c with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb. In other words, the second gate electrode 210b may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode 210a in the row direction. The third gate electrode 210c may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode 210a in the column direction. The fourth gate electrode 210d may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode 210c in the row direction.

As disclosed in FIG. 5B, a gate dielectric layer 205 may be disposed between the active region ACT and the gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c, 210d. A capping dielectric pattern 220 may be disposed on each of the gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d. A gate spacer 219 may be disposed on sidewalls of the gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d. A source region 223 may be disposed in the active region ACT between the first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d. As shown in FIG. 5A, the source region 223 may have a “+” shape in plan view. A first drain region 222a may be disposed in the active region ACT at one side of the first gate electrode 210a opposite to the source region 223, and a second drain region 222b may be disposed in the active region ACT at one side of the second gate electrode 210b opposite to the source region 223. A third drain region 222c may be disposed in the active region ACT at one side of the third gate electrode 210c opposite to the source region 223, and a fourth drain region 222d may be disposed in the active region ACT at one side of the fourth gate electrode 210d opposite to the source region 223. The source region 223 and the drain regions 222a, 222b, 222c and 222d may be doped with a second conductivity type dopant. The first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d may be included in a first transistor, a second transistor,

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a third transistor and a fourth transistor, respectively. The first, second, third and fourth transistors may share the source region 223. The gate dielectric layer 205, the capping dielectric pattern 220 and the gate spacer 219 may be formed of the same materials as the gate dielectric layer 105, the capping dielectric pattern 120 and the gate spacer 119 disclosed in FIGS. 1B and 1C, respectively. The gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d may be formed of the same material as the gate electrode 110 of FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C.

An interlayer dielectric layer 130 may be disposed over an entire surface of the substrate 100 including the gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d. A first gate contact plug 235a penetrates the interlayer dielectric layer 130 to contact the first gate electrode 210a. At this time, at least a portion of the first gate contact plug 235a may overlap the active region ACT. The first gate contact plug 235a may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 and the capping dielectric pattern 220 on the first gate electrode 210a to contact the first gate electrode 210a. An upper surface of the first gate contact plug 235a has a first width Wca in the first direction Da and a second width Wcb in the second direction Db.

As shown in FIG. 5A, according to an embodiment, an entire region of the first gate contact plug 235a may overlap the active region ACT. In this case, the first length M1 of the first edge portion 211 of the first gate electrode 210a may be smaller than the first width Wca of the first gate contact plug 235a. The second length M2 of the second edge portion 212 of the first gate electrode 210a may be smaller than the second width Wcb of the first gate contact plug 235a.

Alternatively, according to other embodiments, a first portion of the first gate contact plug 235a may contact the first edge portion 211 and a second portion of the first gate contact plug 235a may overlap the active region ACT adjacent to the first edge portion 211. In this case, the first length M1 of the first edge portion 211 may be smaller than a sum of the first width Wca and a horizontal distance in the first direction Da between one end of the first edge portion 211 on the device isolation pattern 102 and one end of the first gate contact plug 235a overlapping the device isolation pattern 102. The horizontal distance in the first direction Da may be about 5% to about 15% of the first width Wca. The first length M1 may be greater than zero (0).

According to still other embodiments, the first portion of the first gate contact plug 235a may contact the second edge portion 212 and the second portion of the first gate contact plug 235a may overlap the active region ACT adjacent to the second edge portion 212. In this case, the second length M2 of the second edge portion 212 may be smaller than a sum of the second width Wcb and a horizontal distance in the second direction Db between one end of the second edge portion 212 on the device isolation pattern 102 and one end of the first gate contact plug 235a overlapping the device isolation pattern 102. The horizontal distance in the second direction Db may be about 5% to about 15% of the second width Wcb. The second length M2 may be greater than zero (0).

As described above, at least some of the first gate contact plug 235a overlaps the active region ACT. By doing so, it is possible to increase the size of the active region ACT within a given area. Also, the first gate electrode 210a may include channel lengths extending in a plurality of different directions. As a result, the amount of turn-on current of the transistor within the given area can be increased to thus realize an integrated circuit device which can be improved or optimized for high integration and can have superior reliability. Also, four transistors may be formed in the active region and may share the source region 223. Therefore, the area occupied by

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the four transistors may be decreased to thus increase the amount of turn-on current of the transistors.

A second gate contact plug **235b**, a third gate contact plug **235c** and a fourth gate contact plug **235d** may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer **130** and the capping dielectric pattern **220** to contact the second, third and fourth gate electrodes **210b**, **210c** and **210d**, respectively. At least a portion of each of the second, third and fourth gate electrodes **210b**, **210c**, and **210d** may overlap the active region ACT. According to an embodiment, the positions of the first to fourth gate contact plugs **235a**, **235b**, **235c** and **235d** may be controlled according to the layout of interconnection lines (not shown) connected thereto. According to an embodiment, the third gate contact plug **235c** may be offset from a virtual straight line which passes through a central point of the upper surface of the first gate contact plug **235a** and extends in the second direction Db. The second gate contact plug **235b** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate contact plug **235a** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb. The fourth gate contact plug **235d** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate contact plug **235c** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb. The first to fourth gate contact plugs **235a**, **235b**, **235c** and **235d** may be formed of the same material as the gate contact plugs **135** and **136** of FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C.

A first drain-contact plug **240a** may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer **130** to be connected to the first drain region **222a**. A source-contact plug **241** may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer **130** to be connected to the source region **223**. As shown in FIG. 5A, an upper surface of the first drain-contact plug **240a** may have a bar shape extending along one direction in plan view. An extending length of the first extending portion **207** of the first gate electrode **210a** may be different from that of the second extending portion **208**. The upper surface of the first drain-contact plug **240a** may extend in parallel to a longer one of the first or second extending portions **207** or **208**. For example, as shown in FIG. 5A, in the case where the extending length of the second extending portion **208** is longer than that of the first extending portion **207**, the upper surface of the drain-contact plug **240a** may extend in parallel to the second extending portion **208**. An upper surface of the source-contact plug **241** may have a bar shape extending in parallel to the upper surface of the first drain-contact plug **240a** in plan view. According to an embodiment, an extending length of the source-contact plug **241** may be different from an extending length of the upper surface of the first drain-contact plug **240a**. For example, as shown in FIG. 5A, the extending length of the source-contact plug **241** may be longer than the extending length of the first drain-contact plug **240a**. In this case, a plan area of the source region **223** may be wider than that of the first drain region **222a**. As the source region **223** is shared by the four transistors, a plurality of the source-contact plugs **241** may be disposed on the source region **223**.

A second drain-contact plug **240b**, a third drain-contact plug **240c** and a fourth drain-contact plug **240d** may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer **130** to be connected to the second, third and fourth drain regions **222b**, **222c** and **222d**, respectively. Upper surfaces of the second, third and fourth drain-contact plugs **240b**, **240c** and **240d** may also extend in parallel to the upper surface of the source-contact plug **241**.

Integrated circuit devices according to embodiments may include a plurality of sense amplifier blocks. Each of the plurality of sense amplifier blocks may include an NMOS sense amplifier driver and a PMOS sense amplifier driver. According to some embodiments, the transistors shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B may be transistors included in the NMOS

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sense amplifier driver or the PMOS sense amplifier driver. The sense amplifier drivers will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 6A is a circuit diagram of an NMOS sense amplifier driver included in a sense amplifier block of the device according to embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 6A, the NMOS sense amplifier driver in the sense amplifier block may include a first NMOS transistor N1 and a second NMOS transistor N2. A gate of the first NMOS transistor N1 may be electrically connected to a bit bar line BLB and a drain of the first NMOS transistor N1 may be electrically connected to a bit line BL. A source of the first NMOS transistor N1 may be electrically connected to a ground voltage supply line LAB. A gate of the second NMOS transistor N2 may be electrically connected to the bit line BL and a drain of the second NMOS transistor N2 may be electrically connected to the bit bar line BLB. A source of the second NMOS transistor N2 may be electrically connected to the ground voltage supply line LAB. Thus, the first and second NMOS transistors N1 and N2 may be connected in a latch structure.

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 6A, according to an embodiment, the first, second, third and fourth transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a**, **210b**, **210c** and **210d** respectively may be NMOS transistors. At this time, the first transistor including the first gate electrode **210a** may correspond to the first NMOS transistor N1 of the NMOS sense amplifier driver, and the third transistor including the third gate electrode **210c** may correspond to the second NMOS transistor N2 of the NMOS sense amplifier driver. In this case, the first drain-contact plug **240a** and the third gate contact plug **235c** may be electrically connected to a first bit line and the third drain-contact plug **240c** and the first gate contact plug **235a** may be electrically connected to a first bit bar line. The source-contact plug **241** may be electrically connected to the ground voltage supply line LAB. The first and third transistors including the first and third gate electrodes **210a** and **210c** may be included in a first NMOS sense amplifier driver.

Similarly to this, the second and fourth transistors respectively including the second and fourth gate electrodes **210b** and **210d** may be included in a second NMOS sense amplifier driver. The second transistor including the second gate electrode **210b** may correspond to the first NMOS transistor N1 in the second NMOS sense amplifier driver, and the fourth transistor including the fourth gate electrode **210d** may correspond to the second NMOS transistor N2 in the second NMOS sense amplifier driver. In this case, the second drain-contact plug **240b** and the fourth gate contact plug **235d** may be electrically connected to a second bit line and the fourth drain-contact plug **240d** and the second gate contact plug **235b** may be electrically connected to a second bit bar line.

The first bit line and the first bit bar line connected to the first NMOS sense amplifier driver are different from the second bit line and the second bit bar line connected to the second NMOS sense amplifier driver, respectively. The first to fourth transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a**, **210b**, **210c** and **210d** may constitute a pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers (that is, the first and second NMOS sense amplifier drivers). The pair of the NMOS sense amplifier drivers may be included in a pair of sense amplifier blocks, respectively.

FIG. 6B is a circuit diagram of a PMOS sense amplifier driver included in a sense amplifier block of a device according to embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 6B, the PMOS sense amplifier driver in the sense amplifier block may include a first PMOS transistor P1 and a second PMOS transistor P2. A gate of the first PMOS

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transistor P1 may be electrically connected to a bit bar line BLB and a drain of the first PMOS transistor P1 may be electrically connected to a bit line BL. A source of the first PMOS transistor P1 may be electrically connected to a power supply line LA. A gate of the second PMOS transistor P2 may be electrically connected to the bit line BL and a drain of the second PMOS transistor P2 may be electrically connected to the bit bar line BLB. A source of the second PMOS transistor P2 may be electrically connected to the power supply line LA. Thus, the first and second PMOS transistors P1 and P2 may be connected in a latch structure.

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 6B, according to an embodiment, the first to fourth transistors respectively including the first to fourth gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d may be PMOS transistors. In this case, the first transistor including the first gate electrode 210a may correspond to the first PMOS transistor P1 of the PMOS sense amplifier driver, and the third transistor including the third gate electrode 210c may correspond to the second PMOS transistor P2 of the PMOS sense amplifier driver. In this case, the first drain-contact plug 240a and the third gate contact plug 235c may be electrically connected to a first bit line and the third drain-contact plug 240c and the first gate contact plug 235a may be electrically connected to a first bit bar line. The source-contact plug 241 may be electrically connected to the power supply line LA. The first and third transistors including the first and third gate electrodes 210a and 210c may be included in a first PMOS sense amplifier driver.

Similarly to this, the second and fourth transistors including the second and fourth gate electrodes 210b and 210d may be included in a second PMOS sense amplifier driver. The second transistor including the second gate electrode 210b may correspond to the first PMOS transistor P1 of the second PMOS sense amplifier driver, and the fourth transistor including the fourth gate electrode 210d may correspond to the second PMOS transistor P2 of the second PMOS sense amplifier driver. In this case, the second drain-contact plug 240b and the fourth gate contact plug 235d may be electrically connected to a second bit line and the fourth drain-contact plug 240d and the second gate contact plug 235b may be electrically connected to a second bit bar line.

The first to fourth transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d may constitute a pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers (that is, the first and second PMOS sense amplifier drivers). The pair of the PMOS sense amplifier drivers may be included in a pair of sense amplifier blocks, respectively.

According to an embodiment, each sense amplifier block included in the device may include the NMOS sense amplifier driver and the PMOS sense amplifier driver. In this case, a transistor group including the transistors including the gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d of FIGS. 5A and 5B may be provided in plurality in the device. At this time, any one of the plurality of transistor groups may be implemented in the pair of the NMOS sense amplifier drivers respectively being included in the pair of sense amplifier block and another one may be implemented in the pair of the PMOS sense amplifier driver respectively being included in the pair of sense amplifier block.

As described above, the transistors disclosed in FIGS. 5A and 5B may be implemented in a sense amplifier driver in the sense amplifier block. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors disclosed in FIGS. 5A and 5B may be transistors performing other use and/or other function.

Additional discussion of various embodiments of FIGS. 5A-6B will now be provided. More specifically, FIGS. 5A-6B

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illustrate four transistor circuit layouts for an integrated circuit substrate according to various embodiments. These layouts include an isolation region 102 in an integrated circuit substrate 100 defines an active region ACT that extends along first and second different directions Da, Db, respectively. A+ shaped common source region 223 of the four transistors T1, T2, T3, T4 extends from a center C of the active region along both the first and second directions Da, Db, as defined by virtual lines Va, Vb, respectively, to define four quadrants Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 of the active region ACT that are outside the common source region 223. Four drain regions 240a, 240b, 240c and 240d are provided, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4, and spaced apart from the common source region 223. Four gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c and 210d are also provided, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 between the common source region 223 and a respective one of the four drain regions 240a, 240b, 240c and 240d. A respective gate electrode includes a first vertex V1 and first and second extending portions 207 and 208, respectively. The first extending portions 207 extend from the vertex V1 along the first direction Da, and the second extending portions 208 extend from the vertex V1 along the second direction Db.

In other embodiments, the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as transistors T1 and T2, are symmetric with respect to the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T3 and T4, about a portion of the common source region 223 that extends from the center of the active region C along the first direction Da, i.e., about virtual line Va. In other embodiments, the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T3, are symmetric with respect to the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T2 and T4, about a portion of the common source region 223 that extends from the center C of the active region along the second direction Db, i.e., symmetric about the virtual line Vb.

Various embodiments of FIGS. 5A-6B also include four drain contact plugs 240a, 240b, 240c and 240d, a respective one of which electrically contacts a respective one of the drain regions 240a, 240b, 240c, 240d in a respective one of the four quadrants Q1-Q4. The drain regions, the gate electrodes and the drain contact plugs may be symmetric about the first virtual line Va and/or about the second virtual line Vb.

Various embodiments of FIGS. 5A-6B also include a pair of source contact plugs 241, a first one of which is between the second extending portions 208 of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as T1, T2, and a second one of which is between the second extending portions 208 of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T3, T4. The drain regions, the gate electrodes and the source electrode of a first pair of transistors may be symmetric with the corresponding regions of a second pair of the four transistors, and the source electrode of the second pair of transistors about the virtual line Va and/or Vb.

Moreover, in some embodiments, ends 211 and/or 212 of the first and second extending portions of the four gate electrodes may extend beyond the active region ACT onto the isolation region 102. Moreover, four gate contact plugs 235a, 235b, 235c and 235d may be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes 210a, 210b, 210c, 210d. In some embodiments, a pair of gate contact plugs 235a, 235b are connected to a respective one of the pair of electrodes adjacent the first vertices V1 thereof, and a second pair 235c, 235d of which are connected to a respective one of the pair of the gate electrodes

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remote from the first vertices V1 thereof. The gate contact plugs **235c** and **235d** may be contained within the active regions, as may the gate contact plugs **235a**, **235b**.

Various embodiments of four transistor layouts that are described herein may be contrasted with conventional four transistors layouts as illustrated, for example, in FIG. 11. As shown in FIG. 11, an isolation region **1202** defines two spaced apart active regions ACT1 and ACT2. For a pair of transistors, a source region and a source contact **1241**, and a drain region and a drain contact **1240**, are provided within a given active region ACT1, ACT2, with a given gate electrode **1210** extending between the source contact **1241** and a respective drain contact **1240**. The gate electrodes **1210** include gate contact plugs **1236**, which are provided on the isolation region **1202**, and do not overlap the active regions ACT1 or ACT2.

In sharp contrast, various embodiments described herein may include a single active region ACT for the four transistors, and a source region which may extend in both directions Da and Db, to provide a + shaped common source region for the four transistors.

Next, various modified examples of the present embodiments will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. According to the modified examples, the gate electrode may have various plan shapes. A description will be given of main features of the modified examples. In the following modified examples, a gate dielectric layer is disposed between the gate electrode and the active region, and a capping dielectric pattern such as the capping dielectric pattern **220** of FIG. 5B may be disposed on the gate electrode. An upper surface of the capping dielectric pattern on the gate electrode in each modified example may have the same shape as the upper surface of the gate electrode.

FIG. 7A is a plan view illustrating a modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 7A, a first gate electrode **210a1** may be disposed over an active region ACT. The first gate electrode **210a1** may include a first extending portion **207** extending in a first direction Da, a second extending portion **208** extending in a second direction Db, and a third extending portion **209** extending in the first direction Da. The third extending portion **209** may face the first extending portion **207** and may be spaced apart from the first extending portion **207**. The first and third extending portions **207** and **209** may be connected to both ends of the second extending portion **208**, respectively. At least a portion of the third extending portion **209** may overlap a device isolation pattern **102**. According to the present modified example, the second extending portion **208** may not overlap the device isolation pattern **102**.

A plurality of first-gate contact plugs **235a** and **236a** may be connected to an upper surface of the first gate electrode **210a1**. At least one of the plurality of first gate contact plugs **235a** and **236a** overlaps the active region ACT. In FIG. 7A, the entire upper surface of the first gate contact plug **235a** on the first extending portion **207** may overlap the active region ACT. The entire upper surface of the first gate contact plug **236a** on the third extending portion **209** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102**.

A second gate electrode **210b1**, a third gate electrode **210c1** and a fourth gate electrode **210d1** may be disposed over the active region ACT. The first to fourth gate electrodes **210a1**, **210b1**, **210c1** and **210d1** may be spaced apart from one another, and may be arranged two-dimensionally along the row direction and the column direction. The second gate electrode **210b1** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **210a1** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb described with reference to FIGS. 5A

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and 5B, and the third gate electrode **210c1** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **210a1** with respect to the second virtual straight line Va. The fourth gate electrode **210d1** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode **210c1** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb. A plurality of second gate contact plugs **235b** and **236b** may contact an upper surface of the second gate electrode **210b1**, and a plurality of third gate contact plugs **235c** and **236c** may contact an upper surface of the third gate electrode **210c1**. A plurality of fourth gate contact plugs **235d** and **236d** may contact an upper surface of the fourth gate electrode **210d1**. The gate contact plugs **235b**, **235c** and **235d** on the first extending portions of the second, third and fourth gate electrodes **210b1**, **210c1** and **210d1** may overlap the active region ACT. The gate contact plugs **236b**, **236c** and **236d** on the third extending portions of the second, third and fourth gate electrodes **210b1**, **210c1** and **210d1** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102**.

Transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a1**, **210b1**, **210c1** and **210d1** disclosed in FIG. 7A may be implemented in the pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or the pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 7A may be used for other function and/or purpose.

FIG. 7B is a plan view illustrating another modified example of a device according to another embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 7B, at least a portion of a first gate contact plug **236a** on a third extending portion **209** of a first gate electrode **210a1** may overlap an active region ACT. Due to this, the width of the active region ACT in a second direction Db can be increased, so that the amount of turn-on current of the transistor in a given area may be further increased. In this case, a portion of the third extending portion **209** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may have an overlapping length in the second direction Db. The overlapping length may be smaller than a sum of a width of the first gate contact plug **236a** in the second direction Db, and a horizontal distance in the second direction Db between one end of the first gate contact plug **236a** on the device isolation pattern **102** and one end of the third extending portion **209** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**.

Accordingly, FIGS. 7A and 7B illustrate other embodiments wherein a respective gate electrode **210a1**-**210d1** also includes a third extending portion **209** that extends from an end of a respective second extending portion **208** that is remote from the respective first vertex V1 and extends along the first direction Da. The second and third extending portions **208** and **209** define a respective second vertex V2 therebetween. In some embodiments, as illustrated for example in FIG. 7B, the third extending portions **209** at least partially overlap the isolation region **102**. In other embodiments, as illustrated for example in FIG. 7A, third extending portions **209** do not substantially overlap the active region ACT. In other embodiments, the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T2, are symmetric with respect to the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T3 and T4, about a portion of the common source region that extends from the center C along the first direction Da. In other words, they are symmetrical about the vertical line Va. In other embodiments, the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a first pair of four transistors, such as T1 and T3 are symmetric with respect to the drain regions and the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T2 and T4 about a portion of the common source region that extends from the center C of the active region ACT along the

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second direction Db. In other words, the transistors can be symmetric about the virtual straight line Vb.

Still other embodiments may add four drain contact plugs **240a-240d**, a respective one of which electrically contacts a respective one of the drain regions in a respective one of the four quadrants Q1-Q4. The drain contact plugs may also be symmetric about the first virtual straight line Vb and/or the second virtual straight line Va. A pair of source contact plugs **241** also may be added, a first one of which is between the second extending portions **208** of the gate electrodes of a first pair of four transistors, such as T1 and T2, and a second one of which is between the second extending portions **208** of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T3 and T4. The source contact plugs **241** may also be symmetric about the first virtual straight line Vb and/or about the second virtual straight line Va. Moreover, as illustrated in FIGS. 7A and 7B, ends of the first and third extending portions **207** and **209** may extend beyond the active region ACT onto the isolation region **102**.

Moreover, four gate contact plugs **235a-235d** may be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes, a pair of which, such as **235a** and **235b**, are connected to a respective one of the pair of gate electrodes adjacent the first vertices V1 thereof, and a second pair of which, such as **235c** and **235d**, are connected to a respective one of the pair of gate electrodes remote from the first vertices V1 thereof. Four second gate contact plugs **236a-236d** may also be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes. A pair of the second gate contact plugs, such as **236c** and **236d**, are connected to a respective one of the pair of gate electrodes adjacent the second vertices V2 thereof, and another pair of which, such as **236a** and **236b**, are connected to a respective one of a pair of gate electrodes on the third extensions **209** remote from the second vertices V2.

FIG. 7C is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 7C, a first gate electrode **210a2** may include a first extending portion **207a** extending in a first direction Da and a second extending portion **208a** extending in a second direction Db. At least one of the first or second extending portions **207a** and **208a** may include a landing portion **214** or **215** and a non-landing portion. According to the present modified example, the first extending portion **207a** may include a first landing portion **214** and a non-landing portion, and the second extending portion **208a** may include a second landing portion **215** and a non-landing portion. The non-landing portions of the first and second extending portions **207a** and **208a** may be connected to each other to implement a single bent non-landing portion **216**.

The first landing portion **214** may overlap a portion of a device isolation pattern **102** adjacent to one side of the active region ACT parallel to the second direction Db and a portion of the active region ACT. The width of the first landing portion **214** in the second direction Db may be greater than the width of the non-landing portion of the first extending portion **207a** in the second direction Db. The portion of the first landing portion **214** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may correspond to a first edge portion **211a** of the first gate electrode **210a2** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. The second landing portion **215** may overlap another portion of the device isolation pattern **102** adjacent to one side of the active region ACT parallel to the first direction Da and another portion of the active region ACT. The width of the second landing portion **215** in the first direction Da may be

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greater than the width of the non-landing portion of the second extending portion **208a** in the first direction Da. The portion of the second landing portion **215** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may correspond to a second edge portion **212a** of the first gate electrode **210a2** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. A pair of first gate contact plugs **235a** and **236a** may contact the first landing portion **214** and the second landing portion **215**, respectively. As in the foregoing embodiment 1, the widths of the first landing portion **214** in the first and second directions Da and Db may be greater than the widths of the first gate contact plug **235a** on the first landing portion **214** in the first and second directions Da and Db, respectively. Likewise, the widths of the second landing portion **215** in the first and second directions Da and Db may be greater than the widths of the first gate contact plug **236a** on the second landing portion **215** in the first and second directions Da and Db, respectively.

The first edge portion **211a** may have a first length M1a in the first direction Da. The first length M1a may be smaller than a sum of a width Wca of the first gate contact plug **235a** and a first horizontal distance **40a**. The first horizontal distance **40a** may correspond to a distance in the first direction Da between one end of the first landing portion **214** and one end of the first gate contact plug **235a** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. According to an embodiment, the first length M1a may be smaller than the width Wca of the first gate contact plug **235a**. Similarly to this, the second edge portion **212a** may have a second length M2a in the second direction Db. The second length M2a may be smaller than a sum of a width Wee of the first gate contact plug **236a** on the second landing portion **215** in the second direction Db and a second horizontal distance **40b**. The second horizontal distance **40b** may correspond to a distance in the second direction Db between one end of the second landing portion **215** and one end of the first gate contact plug **236a** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102**. According to an embodiment, the second length M2a may be smaller than the width Wee of the first gate contact plug **236a**. The width Wee may be equal to a width of the first gate contact plug **235a** on the first landing portion **214** in the second direction Db.

A second gate electrode **210b2**, a third gate electrode **210c2** and a fourth gate electrode **210d2** may be disposed over the active region ACT. The second gate electrode **210b2** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **210a2** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb described with reference to FIG. 5A. The third gate electrode **210c2** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **210a2** with respect to the second virtual straight line Va described with reference to FIG. 5A. The fourth gate electrode **210d2** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode **210c2** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb. A pair of second gate contact plugs **235b** and **236b** may contact the first and second landing portions of the second gate electrode **210b2**, respectively, and a pair of third gate contact plugs **235c** and **236c** may contact the first and second landing portions of the third gate electrode **210c2**, respectively. A pair of fourth gate contact plugs **235d** and **236d** may contact the first and second landing portions of the fourth gate electrode **210d2**.

The transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a2**, **210b2**, **210c2** and **210d2** disclosed in FIG. 7C may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 7C may be used for other function and/or purpose.

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FIG. 7D is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 7D, a first gate electrode **210a3** may include a first extending portion **207b** extending in a first direction Da and a second extending portion **208b** extending in a second direction Db. At least one of the first or second extending portions **207b** and **208b** may include a landing portion and a non-landing portion. At this time, an entire upper surface of the landing portion may overlap an active region ACT. According to the present modified example, the first extending portion **207b** may include a landing portion **214a** and a first non-landing portion **216a**, and the second extending portion **208b** may include a second non-landing portion **216b**. All of the second extending portion **208b** may correspond to the second non-landing portion **216b**. The first non-landing portion **216a** may be connected to one side of the landing portion **214a**, and may include a first edge portion **211b** overlapping a portion of the device isolation pattern **102**. The second non-landing portion **216b** may be connected to another side of the landing portion **214a**, and may include a second edge portion **212b** overlapping another portion of the device isolation pattern **102**. Since the first and second edge portions **211b** and **212b** are some portions of the first and second non-landing portions **216a**, **216b**, a length of the first edge portion **211b** in the first direction Da may be smaller than a width of the first gate contact plug **235a** in the first direction. And a length of the second edge portion **212b** in the second direction Db may be smaller than a width of the first gate contact plug **235a** in the second direction Db.

A second gate electrode **210b3**, a third gate electrode **210c3** and a fourth gate electrode **210d3** may be disposed over the active region ACT. The second gate electrode **210b3** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **210a3** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb described with reference to FIG. 5A. Some of a landing portion **80** of the third gate electrode **210c3** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102**. The fourth gate electrode **210d3** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode **210c3** with respect to the first virtual straight line Vb.

According to the present modified example, the landing portions of the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a3**, **210b3**, **210c3** and **210d3** may be disposed at arbitrary positions in the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a3**, **210b3**, **210c3** and **210d3** according to layout and/or shape of interconnection lines (not shown) connected to the gate contact plugs **235a**, **235b**, **235c** and **235d**. In some embodiments, at least some of the landing portions overlap the active region ACT.

The transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes **210a3**, **210b3**, **210c3** and **210d3** disclosed in FIG. 7D may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 7D may be used for other function and/or purpose.

FIG. 7E is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 7E, an active region ACT may include a first portion and a second portion. The first portion of the active region ACT may correspond to a region between first and third gate electrodes **210a** and **210c** and between second and fourth gate electrodes **210b** and **210d**. The second portion of the active region ACT may include portions overlapping the first and second gate electrodes **210a** and **210b**, portions where first and second drain regions are formed, and a portion

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between the first and second gate electrodes **210a** and **210b**. According to the present modified example, a width **60** of the first portion of the active region ACT in the first direction Da may be smaller than a width **50** of the second portion of the active region ACT in the first direction Da.

Accordingly, FIG. 7E illustrates various embodiments wherein the active region ACT is recessed between the first extending portions **207** of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T3, and between the first extending portions **207** of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T2 and T4, so that the isolation region **102** protrudes between the first extending portions **207** of the gate electrodes of the first pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T3, and between the first extending portions of the electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors, such as T2 and T4. Accordingly, the width of the active region is narrower between the first portions **207** of the gate electrodes, as indicated by **60**, compared to other portions of the active region, as indicated by **50**.

The transistors disclosed in FIG. 7E may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 7E may be used for other function and/or purpose.

Embodiment 3

FIG. 8A is a plan view of an integrated circuit device according to still other embodiments of the inventive concept, and FIG. 8B is a cross-sectional view taken along line V-V' of FIG. 8A.

Referring to FIGS. 8A and 8B, a device isolation pattern **102** defining an active region ACT is disposed in a substrate **100**. The active region ACT may extend in a first direction Da. First, second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310a**, **310b**, **310c** and **310d** may be disposed over the active region ACT. The first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310a**, **310b**, **310c** and **310d** may be arranged two-dimensionally along rows and columns. The rows may be parallel to the first direction Da, and the columns may be parallel to the second direction Db. A gate dielectric layer **305** may be disposed between the first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310a**, **310b**, **310c** and **310d** and the active region ACT. A capping dielectric pattern **320** may be disposed on each of the first to fourth gate electrodes **310a**, **310b**, **310c** and **310d**. A gate spacer **319** may be disposed on sidewalls of the first, second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310a**, **310b**, **310c** and **310d**. The gate dielectric layer **305**, the capping dielectric pattern **320** and the gate spacer **319** may be formed of the same material as the gate dielectric layer **105**, the capping dielectric pattern **120** and the gate spacer **119**, respectively.

Referring to FIG. 8A, the first gate electrode **310a** may include a first extending portion **331**, a second extending portion **332**, a third extending portion **333** and a fourth extending portion **334**. The first extending portion **331** may extend in the first direction Da, and the second extending portion **332** may extend in a second direction Db which is different from the first direction Da. According to an embodiment, the second direction Db may be perpendicular to the first direction Da. The third extending portion **333** may be spaced apart from the first extending portion **331** and may extend in parallel to the first extending portion **331**. The first and third extending portions **331** and **333** may be connected to both ends of the second extending portion **332** and may have a shape facing each other. The fourth extending portion **334** may be spaced apart from the second extending portion **332**

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and may extend in parallel to the second extending portion 332. The second and fourth extending portions 332 and 334 may have a shape facing each other. The first and third extending portions 331 and 333 may be connected to both ends of the fourth extending portion 334, respectively. As disclosed in FIG. 8A, the first gate electrode 310a may have a closed loop shape in plan view. The second gate electrode 310b may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode 310a in the first direction Da, and the third gate electrode 310c may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode 310a in the second direction Db. The fourth gate electrode 310d may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode 310c in the first direction Da.

An interlayer dielectric layer 130 may be disposed over an entire surface of the substrate 100. At least one first gate contact plug 335a may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 and a capping dielectric pattern 320 to contact the first gate electrode 310a. At least one of the first gate contact plugs 335a and 336a may overlap the active region ACT. According to the present modified example, the gate contact plugs 335a and 336a may be disposed on the first and third extending portions 331, 333, respectively. An entire upper surface of the first gate contact plug 335a on the first extending portion 331 may overlap the active region ACT. Some portion of the first gate contact plug 336a on the third extending portion 333 may overlap the active region ACT and the other portion may overlap the device isolation pattern 102. In this case, the portion of the first gate contact plug 336a overlapping the device isolation pattern 102 on the third extending portion 333 has a length Qa in the second direction Db. The length Qa may be smaller than a sum of a width We of the first gate contact plug 336a in the second direction Db and a horizontal distance in the second direction Db between one end of the first gate contact plug 336a overlapping the device isolation pattern 102 and one end of the third extending portion 333.

Similarly to this, at least one second gate contact plugs 335b and 336b may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 and the capping dielectric pattern 320 to contact the second gate electrode 310b, and at least one third gate contact plugs 335c, 336c may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 and the capping dielectric pattern 320 to contact the third gate electrode 310c. At least one fourth gate contact plugs 335d and 336d may sequentially penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 and the capping dielectric pattern 320 to contact the second gate electrode 310d.

As disclosed in FIG. 8A, a first drain region 322a may be disposed in an active region ACT enclosed by the first gate electrode 310a having the closed loop shape in plan view. Likewise, second, third and fourth drain regions 322b, 322c and 322d may be disposed in some portions of the active region enclosed by the second, third and fourth gate electrodes 310b, 310c and 310d. A source region 323 may be disposed in the active region ACT between the first to fourth gate electrodes 310a, 310b, 310c and 310d in plan view. First to fourth transistors including the first to fourth gate electrodes 310a, 310b, 310c and 310d respectively may share the source region 323.

A first drain-contact plug 340a, a second drain-contact plug 340b, a third drain-contact plug 340c and a fourth drain-contact plug 340d may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 to contact the first to fourth drain regions 322a, 322b, 322c and 322d, respectively, and source-contact plugs 341 may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer 130 to contact the source region 323. Upper surfaces of the first drain-contact plug 340a and source-contact plug 341 may have a

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bar shape extending in parallel to each other. According to an embodiment, the upper surfaces of the first drain-contact plug 340a and the source-contact plug 341 may extend in parallel to a longer one of the first or second extending portions 331 or 332. According to the present modified example, the second extending portion 332 is longer than the first extending portion 331, the upper surfaces of the first drain-contact plug 340a and source-contact plug 341 may extend in the second direction Db. The plurality of source-contact plugs 341 may be disposed on the source region 323. The plurality of source-contact plugs 341 may be arranged two-dimensionally along the first and second directions Da and Db. According to an embodiment, as shown in the drawing, the source-contact plugs 341 may form one pair of rows. Of the one pair of rows, the first and second drain-contact plugs 340a and 340b may be disposed between the source-contact plugs included in the first row, and the third and fourth drain-contact plugs 340c and 340d may be disposed between the source-contact plugs 341 included in the second row.

Accordingly, FIGS. 8A and 8B illustrate other embodiments wherein a respective gate electrode 310a-310d also includes a fourth extending portion 334 that extends from an end of a respective first extending portion 331 that is remote from the respective first vertex V1 to an end of the respective third extending portion 333 that is remote from the respective second vertex V2, along the second direction Db. A respective gate electrode including the first through fourth extending portions define a closed loop gate electrode pattern, a respective one of which surrounds a respective one of the drain regions 340a-340d. The drain regions and the gate electrodes may be symmetric with respect to the first and/or second virtual lines Vb and/or Va.

First through sixth source contact plugs 341 may also be provided, a first of which is between the second extending portions 332 of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T2, and a second of which is between the second extending portions 332 of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors, such as T3 and T4, a third and fourth of which is adjacent a respective fourth extending portion 334 of the gate electrodes of the first pair of the four transistors T1 and T2 opposite the respective drain region 340. Finally, a fifth and sixth of the source contact plugs is adjacent a respective fourth extending portion 334 of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors T3 and T4 opposite the respective drain regions 340. The drain regions, the gate electrodes and the source electrodes may be symmetric about the first and/or second virtual lines Vb and/or Va.

Four first gate contact plugs 335a, 335b, 336a and 336b may also be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective midpoint of a respective one of the first and third extending portions 331 and 333 of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors, such as T3 and T4. Two second gate contact plugs 335c and 335d may also be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective first vertex V1 of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T2. Two third gate electrode contact plugs 336c and 336d may also be provided, a respective one of which is electrically connected at a respective intersection of the respective third and fourth gate extensions 331 and 334 of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors, such as T1 and T2.

Four transistors disclosed in FIG. 8A may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not

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limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 8A may be used for other function and/or other purpose.

Next, various modified examples of the present embodiment will be described. In the modified examples described below, non-described elements may be the same as those described with reference to FIGS. 8A and 8B. Therefore, a description will be given of characteristic portions of the present modified examples.

FIG. 9A is a plan view illustrating a modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 9A, an entire upper surface of a first gate contact plug **336a** on a third extending portion **333** of a first gate electrode **310a** may overlap a device isolation pattern **102**. In this case, in some embodiments, at least some of another first gate contact plug **335a** contacting the first gate electrode **310a** overlaps the active region ACT. Similarly to this, entire upper surfaces of gate contact plugs **336b**, **336c** and **336d** on third extending portions of second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310b**, **310c** and **310d** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102**. In this case, other gate contact plugs **335b**, **335c** and **335d** contacting the second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310b**, **310c** and **310d** may overlap the active region ACT.

According to an embodiment, a source-contact plug **341a** contacting an upper surface of a source region **323** may have the same extending length as an upper surface of a first drain-contact plug **340a**. In this case, the source-contact plugs **341a** which are greater in number than the source-contact plugs **341** of FIG. 8A may be disposed. The source-contact plugs **341a** may be arranged two-dimensionally along first and second directions Da and Db. According to an embodiment, the source-contact plugs **341a** may form first, second and third rows. The first and second drain-contact plugs **340a** and **340b** may be disposed between the source-contact plugs **341a** included in the first row, and the third and fourth drain-contact plugs **340c** and **340d** may be disposed between the source-contact plugs **341a** included in the third row.

Four transistors disclosed in FIG. 9A may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 9A may be used for other function and/or purpose.

FIG. 9B is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 9B, at least one of extending portions **331'**, **332**, **333** and **334** of a first gate electrode **310a'** may include a landing portion **314** and a non-landing portion. A first gate contact plug **335a** may contact the landing portion **314**. The landing portion **314** may have a larger width than the non-landing portion. According to the present modified example, the first extending portion **331'** of the first gate electrode **310a'** may include the landing portion **314** and the non-landing portion. The landing portion completely overlaps the active region ACT. Similarly to this, at least one of extending portions of second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310b**, **310c** and **310d** may include a landing portion and a non-landing portion. All of the landing portions of the second, third and fourth gate electrodes **310b'**, **310c'** and **310d'** may overlap the active region ACT.

Four transistors disclosed in FIG. 9B may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not

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limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 9B may be used for other function and/or purpose.

FIG. 9C is a plan view illustrating another modified example of an integrated circuit device according to other embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 9C, among extending portions **331**, **332**, **333'** and **334** included in a first gate electrode **310a''**, the third extending portion **333'** may include a landing portion **314a** and a non-landing portion. A first gate contact plug **336a** may contact the landing portion **314a**. Some portion of the landing portion **314a** may overlap some portion of the active region ACT, and the other portion of the landing portion **314a** may overlap the device isolation pattern **102**. The portion of the landing portion **314a** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** may have a length Qb in the second direction. The length Qb may be smaller than a sum of a width of the first gate contact plug **336a** in the second direction, and a horizontal distance in the second direction Db between one end of the first gate contact plug **336a** overlapping the device isolation pattern **102** and one end of the landing portion **314a**. A second gate electrode **310b''** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **310a''** in the first direction, and the third gate electrode **310c''** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the first gate electrode **310a''** in the second direction Db. A fourth gate electrode **310d''** may have a substantially symmetric structure to the third gate electrode **310c''** in the first direction Da.

Four transistors disclosed in FIG. 9C may be implemented in one pair of NMOS sense amplifier drivers or one pair of PMOS sense amplifier drivers, as described with reference to FIGS. 5A, 6A and 6B. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. The transistors of FIG. 9C may be used for other function and/or purpose.

The foregoing embodiments 1, 2 and 3 may be combined. For example, an integrated circuit device according to an embodiment of the inventive concept may include combinations of the transistors disclosed in the foregoing embodiments 1, 2 and 3.

The integrated circuit devices according to the foregoing embodiments may be mounted in various types of packages. Examples of the packages of the integrated circuit devices according to the embodiments of the inventive concept may include package on package (PoP), ball grid arrays (BGAs), chip scale packages (CSPs), a plastic leaded chip carrier (PLCC), a plastic dual in-line package (PDIP), a die in wafer pack, a die in wafer form, a chip on board (COB), a ceramic dual in-line package (CERDIP), a plastic metric quad flat pack (MQFP), a thin quad flat pack (TQFP), a small outline package (SOP), a shrink small outline package (SSOP), a thin small outline package (TSOP), a thin quad flat package (TQFP), a system in package (SIP), a multi chip package (MCP), a wafer-level fabricated package (WFP), a wafer-level processed package (WSP) and so on. The packages equipped with the integrated circuit devices according to the embodiments of the inventive concept may further include a controller for controlling the integrated circuit device, and/or a logic device.

According to the embodiments of the inventive concept, at least some of the gate contact plug may overlap the active region. Due to this, the width (e.g., width of the active region corresponding to the channel width) of the active region within a given area may be increased to thus increase the amount of turn-on current of the field effect transistor. As a result, high integration and/or superior reliability may be realized.

Many different embodiments have been disclosed herein, in connection with the above description and the drawings. It

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will be understood that it would be unduly repetitious and obfuscating to literally describe and illustrate every combination and subcombination of these embodiments. Accordingly, the present specification, including the drawings, shall be construed to constitute a complete written description of all combinations and subcombinations of the embodiments described herein, and of the manner and process of making and using them, and shall support claims to any such combination or subcombination.

In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A four transistor circuit layout for an integrated circuit substrate, comprising:

an isolation region in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region, the active region extending along first and second different directions;

a common source region of the four transistors that extends from a center of the active region along both the first and second directions to define four quadrants of the active region that are outside the common source region;

four drain regions, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants and spaced apart from the common source region; and

four gate electrodes, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants between the common source region and a respective one of the four drain regions, a respective gate electrode including a vertex and first and second extending portions, the first extending portions extending from the vertex along the first direction and the second extending portions extending from the vertex along the second direction,

wherein the active region is recessed between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors and between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors, so that the isolation region protrudes between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of the first pair of the four transistors and between the first extending portions of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors.

2. A four transistor circuit layout for an integrated circuit substrate, comprising:

an isolation region in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region, the active region extending along first and second different directions;

a common source region of the four transistors that extends from a center of the active region along both the first and second directions to define four quadrants of the active region that are outside the common source region;

four drain regions, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants and spaced apart from the common source region; and

four gate electrodes, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants between the common source region and a respective one of the four drain regions, a respective gate electrode including a vertex and first and second extending portions, the first extending portions extending from the vertex along the first direction and the second extending portions extending from the vertex along the second direction,

wherein a respective gate electrode also includes a third extending portion that extends from an end of a respective second extending portion that is remote from the

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respective vertex and extends along the first direction, wherein the respective vertex is a first respective vertex and wherein the respective second and third extending portions define a respective second vertex therebetween; four gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes, a first pair of which are connected to a respective one of a first pair of the gate electrodes adjacent the first vertexes thereof and a second pair of which are connected to a respective one of a second pair of the gate electrodes remote from the first vertexes thereof; and

at least one of the second pair of the four gate contact plugs is on a respective one of the first extending portions of the second pair of the gate electrodes.

3. A four transistor layout according to claim 2 wherein the third extending portions at least partially overlap the isolation region.

4. A four transistor layout according to claim 2 wherein ends of the first and third extending portions of the four gate electrodes extend beyond the active region onto the isolation region.

5. A four transistor layout according to claim 2 wherein the pair of gate contact plugs that are connected to a respective one of a pair of the gate electrodes remote from the first vertexes thereof are contained within the active region.

6. A four transistor layout according to claim 5 wherein the four gate contact plugs are four first gate contact plugs, the four transistor layout further comprising four second gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective one of the four gate electrodes, a first pair of which are connected to the respective one of the second pair of the gate electrodes adjacent the second vertexes thereof and a second pair of which are connected to the respective one of the first pair of the gate electrodes on the third extensions thereof remote from the second vertexes thereof.

7. A four transistor layout according to claim 2 wherein the at least one of the second pair of the four first gate contact plugs is between the isolation region and a respective one of the first vertexes of the second pair of the gate electrodes.

8. A four transistor circuit layout for an integrated circuit substrate, comprising:

an isolation region in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region, the active region extending along first and second different directions;

a common source region of the four transistors that extends from a center of the active region along both the first and second directions to define four quadrants of the active region that are outside the common source region;

four drain regions, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants and spaced apart from the common source region; and

four gate electrodes, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants between the common source region and a respective one of the four drain regions, a respective gate electrode including a vertex and first and second extending portions, the first extending portions extending from the vertex along the first direction and the second extending portions extending from the vertex along the second direction,

wherein a respective gate electrode also includes a third extending portion that extends from an end of a respective second extending portion that is remote from the respective vertex and extends along the first direction, wherein the respective vertex is a first respective vertex

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and wherein the respective second and third extending portions define a respective second vertex therebetween, and

wherein the third extending portions do not substantially overlap the active region.

9. A four transistor circuit layout for an integrated circuit substrate, comprising:

an isolation region in the integrated circuit substrate that defines an active region, the active region extending along first and second different directions;

a common source region of the four transistors that extends from a center of the active region along both the first and second directions to define four quadrants of the active region that are outside the common source region;

four drain regions, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants and spaced apart from the common source region; and

four gate electrodes, a respective one of which is in a respective one of the four quadrants between the common source region and a respective one of the four drain regions, a respective gate electrode including a vertex and first and second extending portions, the first extending portions extending from the vertex along the first direction and the second extending portions extending from the vertex along the second direction,

wherein a respective gate electrode also includes a third extending portion that extends from an end of a respective second extending portion that is remote from the

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respective vertex and extends along the first direction, wherein the respective vertex is a first respective vertex and wherein the respective second and third extending portions define a respective second vertex therebetween,

wherein a respective gate electrode also includes a fourth extending portion that extends from an end of a respective first extending portion that is remote from the respective first vertex to an end of the respective third extending portion that is remote from the respective second vertex, along the second direction, a respective gate electrode including the first through fourth extending portions defining a closed loop gate electrode pattern, a respective one of which surrounds a respective one of the drain regions; and

four first gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective midpoint of a respective one of the first and third extending portions of the gate electrodes of a first pair of the four transistors.

10. A four transistor layout according to claim 9 further comprising two second gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected to a respective first vertex of the gate electrodes of a second pair of the four transistors.

11. A four transistor layout according to claim 10 further comprising two third gate contact plugs, a respective one of which is electrically connected at a respective intersection of a respective third and fourth gate extensions of the gate electrodes of the second pair of the four transistors.

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